

was caused entirely by these animals, each being from 1-13th to 1-20th of an inch in diameter, and he calculated that a cubic fathom would contain at least 23 millions eight hundred thousand.

In the next paper we shall consider the various forms of animal life and the conditions to which the life property is attached.

DEMONSTRATION.

A telegram from London, June 3rd, states that there was a trades union demonstration in Hyde Park on Monday, to protest against the law which harshly and unjustly effects the interests and rights of labour. Thirty thousand people were present.

THE INTERNATIONAL TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION.

The 21st annual convention of the I. T. U., convened on Monday in the Institute Canadian, Notre Dame St., Montreal. The convention is characterized as being the largest that has taken place since its organization, one hundred delegates being present, and we doubt not its deliberations will tell powerfully upon the future progress and prosperity to the organization. The committee on credentials having reported, the convention proceeded to the election of its officers for the ensuing term, and resulted as follows:—President, Mr. W. R. McLean, Washington; 1st Vice-President, Mr. William Kennedy, Chicago; 2nd Vice-President, Mr. W. G. Johnson, Troy; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. John Collins, Cincinnati; Cor. Sec'y, Mr. G. E. Hawkins, Memphis.

Routine business occupied the attention of the convention till its adjournment. On Tuesday, the after routine business, the President and Corresponding Secretary read their annual reports. The officers elect were inducted into their various positions. In the evening the Jacques Cartier Union invited the convention to an excursion to Carillon, on the Ottawa River, on board the "Prince of Wales." The excursion was a brilliant and successful occasion.

THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

Upon no previous occasion has the indefatigable manager of this popular place of amusement succeeded in bringing together such an array of talent as is presented nightly during this week. The "bright particular star" is Miss Annie Hindle—more generally known as the "Great Hindle," whose specialties are rendered to perfection, and must be witnessed to be thoroughly appreciated. In addition to her representations, her vocal abilities are of a very high order. Mr. Chas. Worley in his Ethiopian specialties, speedily established himself in the good graces of admiring audiences; and last, though decidedly not least, in the list of "new stars," come Messrs. Foley and Wade, whose eccentricities and acrobatic performances were encored time and time again. These, in addition to the old favorites, Den Thompson, Adams Brothers, etc., form an array of talent that is seldom witnessed at one time. The entire performances, under the management of Mr. Z. R. Triganne, are most successful, whilst the perfect good order maintained by the large audiences tend not a little to the pleasure of an evening's entertainment.

THE PRESENT ASPECT OF THE TEMPERANCE QUESTION.

We have received from the authoress, Miss L. M. Sherlocke, a 24-page pamphlet containing the above title. It is the subject matter of a lecture delivered by Miss Sherlocke in the Sons of Temperance Hall, Montreal, in November last. The work evinces a comprehensive study of the Temperance question, and its perusal cannot fail in affording both instruction and profit. We bespeak for the pamphlet a wide circulation.

Communication.

TRADES UNIONS.

(To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.)

SIR,—I feel a kind of "itching," as we say in England, to address through you your numerous readers. "Well, sir," say you, "what are you going to write about?"—a very reasonable question too. With your permission, Mr. Editor, I will start with the "Origin of Trades Unions," according to my ideas:

There was a period when men of manual labor were treated as comparative slaves. Being uneducated (their lords at that time, could in many cases, scarcely write their own names legibly), they were obliged to obey the dictum of their rich master without a murmur; for if they dared to differ

from the arbitrary laws laid down for them, immediate dismissal was sure to follow. In the course of time, however, aided by the Press, the workmen began to think and act for themselves. The burdens and injustice they had for many years endured, drove them to this course; not from a feeling of inconsiderate hostility, but from absolute necessity. Matters of vital importance to the working class had become unbearable: hence sprung up among them a full determination to have things made more equitable between master and man. If they did a fair day's work, they expected a fair remuneration for their services. The grinding-down system they spurned, and rightly, too. Individual efforts were made in order to accomplish it. But this was found to be inadequate to the task. Hence they caught up the sublime idea that "Union is strength." From this arose a combination of influences, in order respectfully, but determinedly, to bring about a better state of things. This united force did not wish to dictate to their employers, but rather to remonstrate with them, and asserted that they, the employees, were not properly rewarded for their daily services. The employers looked on the steps as an act of unwarrantable presumption and impudence. This nevertheless, did not deter the ruling minds among them, nor the body at large, from an onward and honorable course. They acted on the principle that "the constant dripping of water wears away the stone." They felt they had stoney hearts to deal with, and therefore were resolved to carry out the experiment. They have, to their great credit, patiently, calmly, and energetically done so. The employers seeing this, began at last, though reluctantly, to deliberate individually and collectively on the wisest policy to pursue. They knew full well that they could not proceed with their numerous engagements, contracts, etc., unless they yielded, to a certain extent, to the potent remonstrance from the workingman's citadel, a terrific battle would ensue, in which probably, if not assuredly, they would be defeated, and have to retreat in disgrace and ultimate loss. Many a sharp contest has taken place between masters and men; and when they have each seen how matters stood—really stood, both contending armies have agreed to a capitulation, and have amicably adjusted their affairs. Tyranny in some cases may have been manifested, on both sides, but it gives myself and thousands besides, a large amount of pleasure to witness a growing conviction that the employers cannot do without the employees, and vice versa. I labor both physically and mentally, and beg to subscribe myself a well-wisher to the cause of Justice blended with Mercy.

H. D.

Toronto, May, 1873.

EMIGRATION.

(To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.)

SIR,—According to the recent reports of the Press, we may expect in Canada a large influx of emigrants to this rapidly advancing colony, from the Mother Country. Agents are appointed by the respective Governments to accelerate this movement. I would, however, take the liberty of suggesting that a more judicious course should be adopted as to the choice of emigrants for this country. In times gone by, we have had parties transmitted to the Dominion of Canada, who are by no means adapted to the requirements of this immense territory. I have lately had to canvas from house to house in relation to an important branch of the public service, and have found that numbers of young men have left this city for the States, hoping thereby to better themselves. Reports, however, have reached me, that Canada is far preferable. If larger wages are given in the States, the expenses are double for board and lodgings, &c., than is charged in this country. Wherein, then, I ask, is the estimated advantage?

What we want is a class of men for this advancing portion of the British Dominion, who are prepared to tug and toil at anything that may present itself to their view. Men who can hold the plough, hedge and ditch, drive teams, use the pick axe, so also, engineers, moulders, masons, carpenters, painters, boot and shoe makers, tailors, and such like men as these can do well here. But clerks, dry goods men, and lawyers' assistants, and such like are not required. They had better stay at home. I speak as an Englishman of three and a-half years experience in Canada, and having my eyes open whilst here, can confidently report on general affairs. If the Old Country have a lot of farm laborers and men of this class to spare, Canada presents a remunerative attraction; but of the opposite class, we have already far too many. So say I, and so say others. A word to the wise should be enough. If

these observations are unheeded, the recoil is on their own heads. This noble country may be injured by sending to it a comparatively helpless class. Nevertheless, it will not derogate from the true merits of the New Dominion, where work is plentiful.

Those who come to this country should have a few pounds in their pockets, and plenty of warm clothes for the winter and very light ones for the summer. The winter is excessively cold and the summer intensely hot. Men with grown up families stand a very good chance, if inured to work, but not else.

H. D.

Toronto, May, 1873.

FREESTONE-CUTTERS STRIKE, OTTAWA.

(To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.)

In your issue of last week, you briefly alluded to the strike that had taken place among freestone-cutters of this city. Will you kindly allow me the opportunity, through the columns of the workingman's paper, to give a few particulars. An article in the *Citizen* of Thursday last, which was evidently written by an employer, states:—

The freestone-cutters, about seventy men, employed in this city by Messrs. Goodwin, Hatch and Langford are still on strike. As far as we can ascertain the case stands as follows:—Last summer they demanded 30 cents per hour for their work, which was acceded to by the employers. The men working ten hours a day under this rate earned \$3 per day. This spring the stone-cutters notified their employers that they were only going to work nine hours a day, but said nothing about the pay. Last week they demanded \$3 for nine hours work, or an average of 33½ cents per hour. This the contractors promptly refused and the men struck. Their demands are, no doubt, unreasonable, as the employers are willing to let them work ten or twelve hours a day, if they wished to do so, at thirty cents per hour.

Another complaint made by the strikers is somewhat unusual. Mr. Goodwin engaged one man, a member of the Union, to set the stone after it came from the hands of the cutters. No matter how well cut a stone may be, it is sometimes necessary to dress it a little to make it fit properly when placed. The setter undertook to chisel the stone, as is usual, to make it fit, but the Union sent a deputation to him and told him he would not be allowed to do it, as it was stone cutter's work. Mr. Goodwin then sent an apprentice to do the work, as there was not half enough work to keep a journeyman employed, but the Union again interfered and notified the setter that he would not be allowed to set out stone at all, but might set rough work. This shows clearly that it is not an increase of wages alone that the men want, but that they desire to dictate to employers, and compel them to yield to all their demands. If the contractors agree to suspend operations for, say two months, the strikers will lose about two hundred dollars each in wages alone, an amount which it would take them two years to make up, even if they received the increase in wages that they demand.

Now, sir, allow me to state that the statements herein made are not to the truth. In reference to the rate of wages last year, it is true that we received 30 cents per hour, during the busy season; but in the fall the bosses reduced it to 27½ cents.

About a month ago we notified them that we would henceforward consider nine hours as a legitimate days work, and we were paid since then 30 cents per hour. Now, our demand is merely a raise of wages from 30 to 33½ cents. They made no objection to the shortening of the hours of labor till the raise of wages was required. As for the latter part of the statement regarding the stopping of men from chiselling on the wall, it is a tissue of falsehoods. The true fact are these: Two stone-cutter employed setting the cut stone, being members of the Sandstone Cutters Union, were notified as members of that Union to abide by its rules, and do nothing to injure us while out, in the way of setting the stone, they were and are quite at liberty to build.

There is a rumor afloat in Ottawa that the department of Public Works have granted the contractors two months longer in the finishing of their jobs, so that we may be compelled to submit. If so, I think they are doing us a grievous wrong without as much as enquiring into the case, and merely taking the bosses' statement.

Comparing the fearful rise in house rent and the price of living, our expected rise is as a mere nothing, seeing at the best that we do not work more than two-thirds of the year.

STONECUTTER.

We have great pleasure in referring to the advertisement and in recommending to our readers, the Moth Proof Linen Bag, prepared by Jos. David's & Co., as a most perfect institution for preserving that valuable part of our winter clothing, furs. The price, 50c each, places them under the reach of every one.

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WORKINGMEN'S PROSPERITY.

(To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.)

There is a cry going forth that the increased wages of the working classes in England is leading to direful results,—being spent in strong drink; and the *Globe* always ready to injure the cause of the workingman, comes out with dreadful array of figures showing the amount of money spent by all classes for intoxicating drinks in the United Kingdom for last year—and then with characteristic unfairness pours the whole down the throats of the labouring class "all, all" cries the *Globe*, "was drunk by working men and women." Of course the higher or middle class drank nothing but pure water, except on rare occasions in the case of a high dignitary, a little curry powder might be used as a gentle stimulant when it was necessary to order a refractory Hodge to be ducked in the horse pond.

It is a fact, a great amount of money is spent in drink by workingmen in England. I admit it with sorrow; and that the amount has increased of late, is too plain to be denied. Granting this, it does not prove that the majority of England's working men have wasted their increased means in strong drink, and other sensual indulgence; and that it would be a wise and prudent thing to return to long time and short pay as before.

Granted that a larger amount of money has been spent in England in strong drink than ever before by the working men, bear in mind this is the first time the men have had a chance to spend much, and workman, like every other class, are apt to spend money foolishly when they come into possession for the first time of increased means. All classes are the same in this respect. In the unprecedented influx of wealth in England during 1871 and 1872 all classes alike have been extravagant; and bear in mind that it is a more difficult thing for a man or woman to save money by sixpences and shillings than for persons with more means to save their 10 or 20 pounds at a time. A man with a spare shilling in his pocket, after a day's hard toil, might be easily tempted to spend it for a pot of beer. The enjoyment might seem present and palpable, while to save it for a rainy day appear distant and problematical; whereas had it been a £5 note it would have seemed in the man's eyes far more easy to deposit it in the savings banks for future use.

I think I can prove that the workmen have saved a very large amount of money since the increase of wages and reduced time came into force, as far as the North of England, or rather a portion of the north, is concerned. Being thoroughly acquainted with the Tyne, I will speak for the workmen of Northumberland and Durham, and leave to other and abler pens other places. The advance of wages and the short hour system was the commencement of the good time. From that time the workmen have begun to save rapidly, they have had increased means and more time look about them and find ways to use it to their own advantage. There has been a very good increase in investments in Saving Banks, Building Societies, and Benefit Societies, to the amount of over a million pounds sterling; but what I chiefly wish to impress upon my fellow workmen in Canada is the immense sums deposited in Co-operative Societies, both distributive and productive, that are wholly carried on by the capital of the working men, and managed by them, and is a fair test of what the workmen are doing with their money. Now we shall see whether the men have drunk all the money or not as reported:

The workingmen in Durham and Northumberland own and manage 74 co-operative stores for the sale of goods used by the men and their families, numbering 36,354 members; and did business in the two counties in 1872 amounting to \$6,041,253, and made a profit of \$457,350 dollars, and owned property worth \$262,310, a reserve fund of \$24,970 with a capital invested in other Co-operative Societies amounting to \$57,300. In all, I may say that the Co-operatives Societies in the Counties have more than doubled since the rise in wages, the capital has increased four fold since that time, and in the face of these facts copied from a parliamentary return moved for by Mr. Morrison, M.P. and can be verified by any one, I say it is base and false to try to make people believe that the workmen of England are wasting their hard earned money and spare time in drunkenness and sensuality.

This is not all that the workmen in the two Counties have done, the best part is to come yet. The above is only the distributive co-operation, which is comparative and easy matter; hear what these drunkards have accomplished in productive Co-operation, a far more complex and difficult undertaking:

These dreadful workmen who have been

cursed with increased pay (according to one benevolent and respected Lord) have instead of getting drunk and abusing their wives and families in a legitimate way, falsified all expectations. They have started four Co-operative Corn Mills, and grind their own flour and meal, and eat good pure bread; and are carrying on a most prosperous trade. They also started a Co-operative Carpet Manufactory in Newcastle on Tyne.

But by far the most important work of all the dreadful men have done is the establishment of the Osworn Engine Works, employing close upon 600 men and turning out work unsurpassed in the world; in direct competition with the celebrated Stephenson Factory, and the scarcely less noted Hawthorne's, besides, a Co-operative Bank in Newcastle on Tyne. The pitmen of Northumberland and Durham, have formed a Co-operative Miners Company with a Capital of \$50,000 which could easily be raised to \$100,000 could a royalty be obtained to work coal. The workmen have, during this year, established a branch in Newcastle of the North of England Printing Society, with good success, employing about 70 hands, and their prospects are most cheering; and last, though not least, there is a branch lately established of the North of England wholesale store, for the supply of goods to the retail Co-operative stores, doing a business of \$40,000 a week.

I think I have said enough to prove to any man that though some men have spent their increased means in that which is not, and cannot be, to their own advantage either morally or socially, (and while drink is destroying many men both for time and eternity,) a great majority of the workmen of Durham and Northumberland are using their increased means for their own and country's welfare. They want no patronizing patting on the back; they are fully aware they must work out their own emancipation from the grip of capital and competition, drunkenness and debt, and in the struggle they want no aid from the legislature. The reform must begin at the centre, and work to the circumference. They have much to learn and much to encounter; but relying on multiplied efforts for their own and the public good, and having a firm faith in the continued progress of their cause, they can look with composure on these bitter attacks of their enemies, and compare them to the wrathful hum of envious wasps about the sturdy oak. They may ruffle a leaf or bend a twig, but cannot make it bear one acorn less.

Yours &c.,

HENRY ROBINSON.

Port Dalhousie, May, 31st, 1873.

Miscellaneous.

JAMES BANKS,

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TO CONTRACTORS.

TENDERS

Addressed to the undersigned, at this Department, will be received until NOON, on

SATURDAY, THE 14th OF JUNE NEXT,

For the construction of a Lock and Channel at a point on the Muskoka River, between Mary's and Fairy Lakes. Plans and Specifications can be seen at the Office of the Agent of the Crown Lands at Brudenburgh, and at this Department.

Printed Forms of Tender can be had on application at this Department, or at the Crown Lands Office at Brudenburgh.

Each Tender must contain the bona fide signatures of the persons as sureties for the due fulfillment of the contract. The lowest or any Tender will not necessarily be accepted.

ARCH. McKELLAR,
Commissioner.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS,
Toronto, 29th May, 1873.

60-h