

# Ontario Workman.

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

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## Labor Notes.

The horse-shoers of New York city are on a strike in opposition to a reduction of wages.

The committee specially appointed by the Glasgow Police Board to consider the subject, have recommended an advance of wages to the police force, who have been threatening a strike.

A large meeting of carpenters was held in London on Thursday night, 13th ult., at which it was resolved to call out all men from the firms refusing to give the additional 1/4d. per hour.

The carriers of Glasgow have arrived at terms with their employers. Their request was a reduction of hours from 57 to 51 per week. The masters offered 54, which has been accepted by the men. Only two employers still hold out.

The Boiler Makers' Union of California, had a meeting last Tuesday evening, the 12th inst. They are doing well, and nearly all employed at the usual wages. The journeymen of the trade are generally members of the Union.

The boiler-makers and joiners at the Ouseburn Co-operative Engine Works at Newcastle-on-Tyne are at present on strike, owing to some dissatisfaction with a foreman. The manager, Dr. Rutherford, is not at home, or perhaps the dispute might not have gone so far.

The stonemasons' strike at Stalybridge has been settled, and the men have resumed work. It has been arranged that no reference shall be made either to hour or day work in the rules, but that the matter shall be left open for individual arrangement. The men will now receive 3s. for a week of 49 1/2 hours.

On Monday morning, August 11th, the Dublin scavengers struck work for the second time within the last twelve months. Their present wages are 15s. a week, with 1s. 3d. for Sunday morning labor. They demand 18s. a week and 1s. 6d. for Sunday work, and the abolition of fines. The strike of the Dublin quay porters continues.

The Cabinet Makers' Protective Union of California, is a large and well sustained society; not long since they held a mass meeting of the trade which resulted in quite an addition to their membership. The members of the society are generally employed; the most of them at piece work; they make from three to five dollars per day. A large majority of the trade are connected with it, and harmony prevails between them and their bosses.

The members of the California House Carpenters' Eight Hour League, and Shop No. 3, of the United Mechanics, are all employed at reasonable wages, ranging from three and a half to four dollars per day, according to demand and capacity. The smooth, quick workmen of course command the highest wages. There are however quite a number of idle men who are not members of the League. There is very considerable work being done, but there are too many to do it. Their association is well sustained, and has a full treasury.

The heaters employed at the North Side rolling mill, Milwaukee, after a conference with the company, agreed to resume work, on Monday last, and finish the unexpired term of their contract, on conditions that at the end of the term there will be an amicable adjustment of their grievances. There are about two weeks of the unexpired term to fill.

On Tuesday, 11th ult., at breakfast time, the employes of Messrs J. & G. Paton, Chapel Works, Montrose, struck work for an advance of wages. It seems that in common with the workers at other mills in town, they had requested a rise of 1s. 1d. on their present rate of wages, and this was refused. In the afternoon they were joined by the boys and girls from the Union Mill and Commerce Street Works, and the total number on strike was then estimated at nearly 1500. As usual, they walked in procession through the streets. On Wednesday afternoon, the strike came to an end,

the employers having consented to their demand for a rise of 6d., 4d., and 3d. per week, according to the wages previously received by them.

## THE UNITED TRADES' COUNCIL OF EDINBURGH AND LEITH.

The report of the United Trades' Council of Edinburgh and Leith, for the year ending June 24th, has just been issued. After remarking on the influence which the deliberations of the Trades' Council have exercised on the public mind during the past year, the report states that the past session has been a most eventful one, in regard to the number, importance, and general interest of the topics under discussion at the Council. One lock-out and several strikes had been brought under the attention of the Council, and though (it is said) they had not all been attended with a triumph for the unionist, yet in the main they had been successful. These were as follows:—(1) The strike of the printers of the *Scotsman*, and the general strike in the bookbinding trade; (2) the partial strike of the joiners; (3) the hosiers of Hawick; (4) the joiners of Liverpool; (5) the shoemakers; and (6) the lock-out of the tailors. With regard to the first of these, the report states that "the failure of the printers was entirely owing to the introduction and bribery of workmen at an immense outlay from England, where non-unionists in that trade are in greater numbers than in Scotland, and what is worse, where many make a trade of benefiting by the sacrifices made by their fellow-workmen. In connection with the strike in the *Scotsman*, it may be mentioned that, under the auspices of the Trades' Council, one of the largest, best-conducted, and most orderly public meetings ever held in Edinburgh was got up, addressed, and carried out solely by working men, independent entirely of the patronage which in former times has generally been considered a necessary appendage to such meetings, but which it is hoped may now, with such a precedent, soon disappear in all meetings of working men. In passing from the printers, the hope may be expressed that, though they have failed in the meantime, they may not be discouraged, but may stick to one another, so that the employers may see it to their interest, and for the sake of peace and harmony, without another strike to grant the fifty-one hours' limit (now all but universal among skilled tradesmen), and the slight rise in rates which was so courteously asked, so bitterly refused, and so long fought for." Referring to the existing lock-out of tailors, the report says that a word of commendation may well be bestowed upon them "for the honorable course they have pursued during their protracted lock-out." When account was taken, it adds, of the great number locked out (between two and three thousand), the length of time over which the lock-out has extended, the contemptible and unwarrantable steps taken by the employers to defeat the journeymen and the false statements that had been circulated—too much could not be said in praise of the men who had held out so long, and who had managed to support their locked-out brethren without any appeal whatever to other trades for support. It was earnestly to be hoped (the report states) that this most unfortunate dispute would speedily come to a termination. The report concludes with the following reference to the Criminal Law Amendment Act, and to the demonstration advertised to take place on Saturday the 23rd inst., in favor of the repeal of the laws relating thereto. "The last topic to which attention can be drawn is one that has of late been repeatedly before the public. It is one of the utmost importance to all unionists, and of which condemnation cannot be expressed too strongly—namely, the Criminal Law, which only affect the working classes. Much cannot, and need not be said against such laws here. The axiom, 'the eye of law all are equal,' is a dead letter with regard to them. What is a civil offense committed by the 'masters,' is criminal in the servant; what is quite fair and just done by the 'employer,' de-

serves, according to these laws, the severest punishment if done by the 'employee;' and, what is perhaps worse, a pretence of justice to both parties is made to run through the wording of these laws. You will be asked to join in a demonstration against these laws. Several such in other places in the kingdom have already been held. Without such demonstrations the voice of the working men in regard to his grievances will never be listened to. We, in concluding this report, cannot do better than urge upon all unionists to turn out on the day fixed (23rd August.) It is solely a unionist cause, it is only the unionist and unionism that they are directed against. By individual effort, as unionists too well know, little can be done; but by your earnestness, your numbers, and a little organization, you may compel an unwilling Parliament to listen to your voice, and grant their repeal." The total income of the Council from the contributions of the various trades, &c., is stated to be £24, 7s. 3d., which includes £3, 14s. 3d. for the sale of Baillie Lewis's lecture on "Capital and Labor," and £1, 9s. 3d. drawn at the door on the occasion of its delivery. Under the head of expenditure are a number of items for printing bills, advertising and other expenses in connection with the lecture, amounting in all to about £7 or £8, thus leaving a deficit of several pounds on the society's funds by this speculation.

## OPPOSITION TO THE ST. CRISPINS.

The *Pudson Register* says that a combination of the larger boot and shoe manufacturers of New York, Massachusetts, and New Jersey, resolving to emancipate themselves from the rule of the St. Crispins, have recently purchased eight hundred acres of land on the Hudson, in the town of Stockport, and propose to erect the necessary buildings for manufactories and residences, and bring over from three to five thousand Swiss workmen and their families. Agents are now in Europe negotiating for this immigration. The property has a river front of two and a half miles, and is admirably situated for a thrifty and healthy settlement.

## AMALGAMATED CARPENTERS' AND JOINERS' SOCIETY.

Mr. Prior, in last month's report, says:—**FELLOW MEMBERS**—The return from the various branches show that trade is still good in Great Britain and Ireland, and there has also been an improvement in America during the past month. The advance in the rate of wages in London appears to have thrown a few of our members out of employment, but we have good reasons for believing that they will all be at work again very soon.

The quarterly financial returns also show that our funds are steadily increasing, and that the society is in a very prosperous condition.

## UNION OF IRISH LABORERS.

A conference of laborers, at which deputies attended from different parts of the kingdom, was opened on Thursday the 12th ult. at Kanturk, and a public meeting was held on Friday in the space opposite the Queen's Arms hotel. From 3,000 to 4,000 persons of the laboring classes attended. Archdeacon O'Regan presided, and resolutions were passed recommending the formation of an Irish Laborers' union in connection with the organization in England for the purpose of advancing the interest of the laboring classes, the Land Act having failed to give them any benefit, and a committee was formed to carry out the objects. At the conference it was stated that eight millions of acres in England had been stolen by the landlords and owners, and that if they were divided among the agricultural laborers they would give each a farm of 30 acres. They looked to the franchise which Mr. Gladstone had promised them, and which should be extended to Ireland, if given in England, as a means of redressing their grievances.

## WORK OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

Mr. Redgrave, Inspector of Factories, in his 40th half-yearly Report, recently presented, states that he has been asking the opinions of factory certifying surgeons on the subject of the employment in factories of children and married women. Some surgeons, in districts where half-timers are numerous, consider that children may safely begin work at nine or even eight years of age in modern factories, but the weight of opinion appears against their employing them under ten, on account of the importance of giving full scope to physical development at an earlier age, and free access to pure external air. Mr. Redgrave gives it as his opinion that a gradual raising of the minimum age, first to nine years, and then, at a year's interval, to ten, would not add perceptibly to the difficulties of manufacturers, while it would be of great advantage in the improved physical development of children. He would not at present apply such a law to employment at straw-plait, pillow lace making, and the like, partaking of the nature of a domestic occupation, but he holds that all child labor will have to be further regulated in the course of time. He is of opinion, also, that married women should be placed under the same regulations as children, their factory work to be restricted to half the working day, the other half being left for home and domestic duties. Women are now employed, he says, in many cases where children worked before the Factory Acts prohibited them; and he maintains that the condition of wives and mothers has reached a point at which a speedy improvement is urgently required, and that his proposal is the only alternative to what would otherwise be demanded in the interest of coming generations—namely, the absolute prohibition of the labor of married women in factories. He insists that an operative in a factory has no absolute need of the earnings of his wife and children. He admits "the charm of a wife earning 20s. a week;" a dowry which, in his view, must be partly sacrificed for the sake of the duties of housewife and mother. After much thought and consideration Mr. Redgrave thinks the Legislature could interfere with the same regard and tenderness for vested rights which has hitherto distinguished the whole course of factory legislation. He allows that "it may be startling at first to propose to place mothers in the category of infants;" but he sees no remedy for the mischievous results of the absence of mothers from home all day except by "insuring to the wife time to do her duty to her children, and to be just to herself, and to make a home for her husband who should be the real breadwinner and mainstay out of doors."

## AN EXAMPLE WORTH FOLLOWING.

We learn from Mr. Jones, President of the Heaters National Union, that he has forwarded to President Schilling, in behalf of his organization, a donation of \$30, to help defray the incidental expenses of the National Labor Congress. We mention this fact to spur others on in their duty. When the water fails the grist mill stops, and when the treasury is depleted the Union generally goes to the dogs. One thing is evident, and must commend itself to the good sense of the delegates, that a revenue must be derived from some source, if we expect the officers to perform their duty. It is asking too much that they shall make bricks and furnish the clay, at the same time. They are workmen, who depend on their labor for a living—and it will be an outrage, if the producing classes throughout the country—irrespective of calling—do not rally to their support. If there is one lesson our people need to learn, and put into practical operation, more than another, it is that the laborer is worthy of his hire. They preach it, but they too frequently fail to practice it—when applied to their own actions. Let us all remember that the officers are our representatives—elected to perform duties in our behalf; let us put ourselves

in their position, do as we would wish others should do unto us, and the question is solved.

Nor yet should it be given in a begrudging spirit, or under the impression that an act of charity is performed. Nothing of the sort. When Saturday night comes, wages are received as a right—not as a favor, and so in this case. The funds asked for are required to run the machinery of the organization, and must be forthcoming. Sympathy isn't worth a rush-light. A five dollar bill is worth more in this instance than all the sympathy which could be tendered till the resurrection day. Let sympathy take the shape of a draft or a post-office order—accompanied by honest words of cheer, and reports of progress, and it will ultimately prove a better investment than all the bonds in the United States Treasury.—*Workingman's Advocate*.

## SWIMMING AND BATHING.

Encourage the boys and girls in learning how to swim, as it may be the means of saving their own lives and rendering them instrumental in saving those of others in days to come. Also impress upon their minds the great necessity of caution ere they learn how to take care of themselves in the water. The deaths from drownings so prevalent during the summer are among the saddest incidents of the season, coming as they do so suddenly, and what renders them particularly distressing is the fact that the great majority of them are caused by heedlessness. Bathing and swimming are healthy and delightful sports, and when participated in with moderation, as all pleasures should be in order to make them enjoyable, conduce greatly to the benefit of mind and body. It is the excess in this, as well as everything else, which produces the harm, and this should be strictly guarded against. Many a bright and promising lad has lost his life or undermined his health and become a sufferer, by being too venturesome in the water, or going in too often. From such items may we be spared the chronicling during the present season.

## A MECHANIC IN EMBROYO.

Some people are born mechanics, as will more fully appear from the following, taken the *Examiner* of the 16th of July: "We saw yesterday at the Empire Foundry, on Beal St., a large 'Occident' (stove) range, which was complete, made by a San Francisco born boy aged only fourteen years. It is a fine specimen of workmanship and attracts much attention. The youthful mechanic is named John Keough. We note this to show what might be done by those of our boys who are made 'hoodlums' because of Chinese competition and cheap labor, were they allowed equal opportunity and encouragement. And herein is a subject for reflection in connection with the questions of the day."

The boy is the son of Thomas Keough, who is one of the best molders in the city and would no doubt make a good manager of the Co-operative Stove Manufactory he proposes to establish in San Francisco. The skill of this youth is an illustration of what mechanic parents might do for their boys if they could rid themselves of the foolish notions that a do-nothing calling makes a gentleman. Such a boy working four hours and studying at school four more would prove that labor is truly honorable, and the mechanic a gentleman.—*Shop and Senate*.

## THE SHEFFIELD ENGINEERS.

A mass meeting of the engineers on strike at Sheffield was held on Monday night, 11th ult., when the result of the interview their deputation had had with their employers on the previous day was reported. The employers, it was stated, were told that it was possible an understanding might be arrived at if they would meet the men, but they positively refused to make the slightest concession; and asserted that if the vote of the men when the strike was decided upon had been taken by ballot, a very different result would have been arrived at. The men were now asked if they would vote upon the question by ballot, and they unanimously refused. A resolution pledging the men to adhere to their original circular was adopted with loud cheers.