

NOTICE.

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

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124 BAY STREET.

Meetings of Unions.

TORONTO.

Meetings are held in the Trades' Assembly Hall, King street west, in the following order:—  
Machinists and Blacksmiths, 1st and 3rd Mondays.  
Painters, 1st and 3rd Monday.  
Tailors, 2nd and 4th Monday.  
Crispins, (159), every Tuesday.  
Amalgamated Carpenters, alternate Wednesdays.  
Laborers, 2nd and 4th Wednesday.  
Iron Moulders, every Thursday.  
Millers, 2nd Thursday.  
Trades' Assembly, 1st and 3rd Friday.  
Bricklayers and Masons, 1st and 3rd Friday.  
Stone Cutters, 2nd and 4th Friday.  
Coopers, 2nd and 4th Friday.  
Printers, 1st Saturday.  
Bakers, every 2nd Saturday.

The Amalgamated Society of Engineers, &c., meets in Foy's Hall, corner of York and Richmond sts., on the 2nd and 4th Friday.  
The Hackmen's Union meets in the Temperance Hall, on the 1st Monday.  
The Friendly Society of Carpenters and Joiners meets in the Temperance Hall, Temperance street, on the 1st Friday.  
K. O. S. C., No. 315, meets in the Temperance Hall every alternate Tuesday.

OTTAWA.

Meetings are held in the Mechanics' Hall, (Rowe's Block), Rideau street, in the following order:—  
Free-stone Cutters, 1st and 3rd Tuesday  
Lime-stone Cutters, 1st and 3rd Wednesday.  
Masons and Bricklayers, 1st and 3rd Thursday.  
Trades' Council, 1st Friday.  
Printers, 1st Saturday.  
Tailors, 2nd and 4th Wednesday.  
Harnessmakers, 4th Monday.

ST. CATHARINES.

Meetings are held in the Temperance Hall, in the following order:—  
K. O. S. C., 1st Monday.  
Tailors, 2nd Monday.  
Coopers, 3rd Tuesday.

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Mr. D. W. TERNENT, Niagara Street, St. Catharines, will receive subscriptions and give receipts for the WORKMAN. Parties calling on Mr. Ternent will please state if they wish the paper continued.

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The Ontario Workman.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, JAN. 22, 1874.

THE OTTAWA ELECTION.

We are sure our readers will be pleased and gratified at the result of the elections in Ottawa, on Tuesday, for the Local House. A glorious victory was achieved by Mr. D. J. O'Donoghue, the workingman candidate, his majority being stated at about 600—"noble six hundred." A good deal of enthusiasm was displayed in the evening, and a grand torchlight demonstration made. In the name of the workmen of Toronto we greet the newly elected, and add our congratulations.

TRADE UNIONS AND THEIR OBJECTORS.

We have come across, in an English paper, some of the stereotyped objections used by a certain class of newspaper writers against Trades Unions,

which are ever and again cropping up, and as they have been quoted by those who are opposed to combinations of skilled labor in this Dominion, it may not be amiss to briefly discuss them. Of course we have no right, nor have we any intention, of finding fault with any one for writing against trades unions; but we have a right to find fault with the manner in which the writer in question (and those who follow his line of reasoning), executes his task. The question is a very serious one. Multitudes of people are directly interested in it; and large and important interests cannot but be seriously touched by any decided results, one way or the other, such discussions may lead to. The writer in question is the editor of a "financial" paper, and it is to be hoped, for the sake of his readers, that he understands matters of finance somewhat more perfectly than he does the subject he has attempted to air his opinions upon; for in his remarks it is painfully apparent he lacks two things—he lacks temper and he lacks knowledge. If his argument was as strong, or his logic as sound, as his passion is intense, he would be, what the gentlemen of the "manly art" would call, an "ugly customer;" but he is more offensive than formidable, and requires to be rebuked rather than reasoned with. The writer shapes and defines his objections to Trades Unions, and numbers them with the precision of an auctioneer before he raises his hammer for the purpose of knocking them down. No. 1 "objection" runs thus:—

1st. By restricting the number of apprentices, unionists deny to boys, even their own children, the opportunity of learning a trade, and earning honest bread.

This objection is modest; but it is not original. So far as the first statement here made is concerned, we, in vulgar parlance, "acknowledge the corn." Trades unionists do, in certain cases, limit the number of apprentices; but we deny, in toto, that they shut boys, "even their own children," out of the means of getting an honest living. Nothing is more easy to make than a charge of this kind; but if it were true, not one word more would need to be said against trade unions; for this one circumstance would, of itself, be sufficient to condemn them in the minds of all right-thinking persons. The thing would be so wicked that society generally would rise up and protest against it; but as it is not true in fact, and therefore not wicked in act or intention, those who make such false statements not only offend against truth, but against the most ordinary rules of justice and fairness. We presume, what the blundering writer means is, that Trades Unions, in some instances regulate the proportion of apprentices to the number of journeymen employed, who shall enter their trades. Very possibly some may consider such a restriction wrong, but the practice of centuries prove that it is a wise policy, tending, as it does, to sustain the status of the various trades. We know whereof we affirm, when we say there are no persons in the country more anxious that apprentices shall become masters of their trade than are trades' unionists, and the only reason they exact and enforce their restrictive apprentice laws is, to prevent unscrupulous employers filling their shops with boys whom they are pleased to call apprentices, and who, at the end of a few years, become "journeymen," with little practical knowledge of the trade they are supposed to have learned, than three-fourths of those employers who, because they happen to employ a certain quantity of "skilled labor" are pleased to dub themselves "master mechanics." The editor of the *Molder's International Journal*, writing on this subject, makes these remarks:—"Trades Unions say in effect: We believe it is right that apprentices should be properly instructed, but only a limited number can be so thoroughly taught. We will do our utmost to prevent your taking more apprentices than you can teach, and if you confine yourself to that number we will cheerfully assist in teaching them; but if you insist on filling your establishment with boys,

who you will not learn, who you can not learn the trade, we will do our utmost to prevent you from getting them, and we will refuse to assist them in learning the trade." This course is found to be absolutely necessary; and hence we find that Unionists generally are in favor of the enactment and enforcement of good apprentice laws that will compel employers to teach the trade they profess to every apprentice they may hire.

The inference the writer in No. 1 objection would have the public draw is, that there must be a large number of boys who are anxious to earn an honest living, but who are becoming a prey on society, because the members of trades unions will not permit them to go to work. It might be very pertinently asked, where are these boys? And then, as a necessary consequence, there must also be a number of trades underhanded, with a surplus of work, and no one to do it. Would it not have been much better, and very much more to his purpose, for the writer to have left off a few of his logical flourishes, and put his finger upon any such "damaging fact"—did any exist—as we have alluded to? But the inability to do so, leads him to deal in mere clap-trap and inference. So much for No. 1, now for No. 2 objection:—

2nd. They molest, they assault, and have even murdered those who chose to work independently, whereby large numbers are terrified into paying Black Mail to their Committees.

Those of our readers who are conversant with union matters in the old country will at once see the drift of the objection. It is one of those half-truths, which, when stated by malice and listened to by ignorance, is always "the worst form of falsehood." It must be admitted that years back, during the existence of the "combination laws," violence being, as a writer remarks, "the only method men had to enforce their views, men resorted to it, very shockingly and very brutally sometimes; and that even after these laws were repealed, violence was indulged in to the grief and horror of men who were at the head of trade associations." But it may be stated as a general fact, beyond reasonable denial, that the Trades Union Commission which was appointed by the Imperial Parliament to investigate the outrages committed notably by Broadhead in Sheffield and the Manchester brick-makers, if it proved anything clearly and indisputably, it was that the well-organized Trades Unions were active and powerful agents in preventing intimidation and violence in trade proceedings. The acts of violence which were common occurrences fifty years ago have almost entirely disappeared, and that such is the case is very much due to the wholesome influence exercised by the great trades unions. It is worthy of remark that the "levying of black mail" are the terms used to describe the payment of union dues or subscriptions. Some hundreds of thousands of men, according to this man, submit to be robbed by a few Trade Union leaders,—they are cowards all, and poltroons, and, by way of inference again, we must consider the writer in question a man of honesty and courage who denounces their treachery and baseness! Comment is superfluous. But let us see what the 3rd count in the indictment says:—

3rd. They limit the quantity of work to be done by each man, in many cases to less than half a fair and reasonable day's stint, so that, whereas this commonwealth has been built up on the fact that an Englishman could do more work than any other man, and do it better, it is now held forth that the best man, or at least the best Unionist, is he who does the least.

Trade Unionists do not "limit the quantity of work to be done by each man to less than half a fair day's stint." We thus put a negative against the writer's affirmative, but where is the proof? That there are differences of opinion between working men and their employers, almost the world over, as to how much work should be done in a day for a certain monetary consideration, is, no doubt, true enough. There

ever have been, and, we presume, there ever will be, such differences of opinion between buyers and sellers. But in place of his swaggering assertion, why did not the writer name any trade, state what he considered a "fair day's work" in it, and then put his finger on the laws of limitation set down by the union? Simply because it would have been an impossibility. There is nothing easier than to make statements by the score; as Hamlet says, "It is as easy as lying;" but when such statements are injurious, if not calumnious in character, some slight degree of proof ought to be tendered by those who make them. And now we come to—

4th. In like manner, they discourage and prevent improvement and excellence of workmanship, by laying down and enforcing whenever they can the rule that all men are to be paid alike, irrespective of skill and industry.

This is but a continuance in spirit and recklessness of what has already been noticed. The trades unions do not fix a uniform price above which a good workman shall not rise. When they do fix the rate of a day's wages, a minimum price is fixed—and that, too, generally at a rate little above what will procure the bare necessities of life; leaving the power of discharge absolutely in the hands of the employer in relation to any man who may not, in his opinion, be capable of earning the sum named; and leaving him also the power of giving as much more as he may think proper to the workman who is worth more. But as a matter of fact the exceptions are, like angel's visits, "few and far between," wherein the abilities of a superior workman entitle him, in the estimation of the employer, to an advance upon such minimum scale; and there is not the slightest doubt that, in thousands of cases, they would not get even the amount of the minimum scale were it not for the existence of the unions that adopted and enforced it.

WEST AND CENTRE TORONTO.

We are glad that it is in our power to state to our readers that the Hon. John Beverley Robinson and Mr. Angus Morrison are in the field for the West and Centre Divisions of the city. The names of these gentlemen must at once commend themselves to all, as those of men in every way capable of discharging the functions which, as the people's representatives, will fall upon them.

Mr. Robinson has on four previous occasions been before the people of the city for election, and on one of them the great "Governmental impossibility" himself fell before his influence, ability and popularity. His is a name which, on account of his father's intellect and virtues, must ever be venerated in Canada, and as Mr. Matthew Cameron said, on the evening of the nomination, "Mr. Robinson has invariably proved himself to be a worthy son of so illustrious a father." The interests which he has ever manifested in our municipal matters and his popularity with all classes of the citizens will be of service to him now, and we do not doubt but that on the evening of the 29th the people of West Toronto will show that they are still loyal to those principles which Mr. Cameron, as their representation, has so consistently and ably maintained. It was only upon the absolute refusal of Mr. Robert Bell to stand, and upon the urgent pressure brought to bear upon him by that gentlemen and other friends, that Mr. Robinson was induced to accept the nomination; but now that he is in the field, all classes, creeds and denominations will join in supporting the man whose motto has ever been "fair play and equal rights to all." His energy and indomitable courage must make him a formidable opponent to those who happen to be in power; and the good will with which his friends are rallying round him is the best possible test that of all men who could have come forward, Mr. Robinson is by far the best. Many years experience in Parliamentary life and a seat in the Councils of his Sovereign must surely be a guarantee that he will be a fit representative of the people,

and we think that there is every prospect of Mr. Moss finding that his late contest was no criterion of the feeling of the people of West Toronto. When we find that it was Mr. Robinson who nominated Mr. Coatsworth in the East, and who, of all others, was the most anxious that Mr. Bell should contest the Western Division, we feel confident of the fact that the working men of Toronto will to a man show their appreciation of Mr. Robinson's unselfishness and integrity.

As to the Centre we feel called upon to say but little. Between Mr. Morrison and his opponent, there is the same difference as exists between the genuine gold and the spurious article which is often palmed off upon the people. The mere fact that their representation so far forgot what was due to THEM as to endeavor in the face of the law and common decency to vote twice at the Mayoralty election, stamps him at once as totally unfit to take once more a seat in Parliament. Apart from this there are charges standing against Mr. Wilkes which unless cleared up are serious enough to warrant his being sent to a place not far distant from Ottawa. The Goldsmith's bill, too, is a matter which to practical men, is not to be explained away by the learned legal opinion of Dr. McMichael. Mr. McMichael's opinion merely goes to show that the proposed act was not illegal nor unconstitutional, but does not, in our opinion, go to the question of the monopoly intended to be created by the Act in favor of Mr. Wilkes and a few of his connections or employees. A reference to the act as introduced, and the petition against it published in a city contemporary, will establish beyond a question the facts we have stated. The Mechanics of Centre Toronto have yet to express their opinion upon it, and although it may not be so favorable or costly as that of the learned Queen's counsel, it will be more satisfactory to those who have the interests of the city at heart.

LEARNING TO THINK.

It requires no prophet to foretell that if the rank and file of the great army of labor expect to take advantage of, and turn to good and lasting account the interest at present manifested in the Labor Reform movement; if they desire to secure the sympathy and co-operation of the public at large, in their endeavors to ameliorate their condition, or evoke legislative aid in the enactment of those measures which they deem essential to their own and country's welfare, they must prepare to occupy a higher position—intellectually—in the future, than they have in the past. They must educate themselves to think; they must also learn to think for themselves. They must be able to give a reason for the hope that is in them, and meet by voice and pen, the specious sophistry employed to prove their position untenable and their demands unwarranted. Those who would win the crown, must bear the cross. Does any sensible, reflecting man believe for a moment, that capital is going to surrender the tremendous power which it at present wields over labor, without a struggle? Arouse it to a sense of its danger. Let it realize the terrible significance of the labor movement, that it means the destruction of its overshadowing, unhallowed influence—a more equal distribution of wealth—and the aid of the ablest minds in the Republic will be invoked to misrepresent alike its objects and the means by which they are sought to be accomplished.

Workingmen must remember that the labor movement is daily assuming a new and more important phase. In the past a contemptuous paragraph or slur was deemed sufficient to dispose of their pretensions; the cry of demagoguism regarded as an unanswerable reply to their demands. Occasionally they would be reminded that only fools rushed in where angels feared to tread; that all attempts to redress their supposed grievances through the ballot-box would end in failure; that the question of finance was entirely beyond their