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No. 7628.

Rooms K. of L. Hall, Chaboillez square. Next meeting Sunday, Sept. 18, at 7.30, Address all correspondence to

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BUILDERS' LABORERS' UNION. Meets in Ville Marie Hall, 1623 Notre Dame street, every TUESDAY at 8 P. M. Address all communications to

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1711, K. of L.

Meets next Sunday, in the K. of L. Hall, Chaboillez square, at 7 o'clock.

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BRITISH TOILERS' CONGRESS.

Opening of the Congress-Difficulty About the Royal Toasts-Settling Down to Business.

NEWCASTLE, Eng., Sept. 7-The Trades Union Congress opened here this morning. There are over 500 delegates present and they represent about 1,500,000 British workmen, skilled and unskilled. Thomas Burt, member of Parliament for Morpeth, Northumberland, a member of the Labor Commission, was elected President. Mr. Burt is the son of a coal miner and formerly worked in the coal pits. Since 1865 he has been Secretary of the Northumberland Mutual Association, a trades union having a membership of twelve thousand. The Congress will discuss a number of questions of great importance to the working classes, prominent among which will be the question as to whether eight hours should or should not constitute a day's work. On this subject there is an increasing diversity of opinion. State insurance for workingmen and their employers liability in cases of accident are also questions which are looked forward to as likely to be discussed.

NEWCASTLE, Eng., Sept. 8-The proceedings of the Trades Union Congress now in session here, and representing the interests of over a million and a half skilled and unskilled workmen of Great Britain, are attracting widespread attention. In some quarters the Congress is termed "The Workmen's Parliament," and the movement is looked upon as likely to lead to important political results.

Princess Beatrice, Lady Dilke, Thos. Potter (Radical Reformer), John Gorst, Parliamentary Secretary of the Indian office, and other members of Parliament were present at the opening of the congress yes-

During the session "Ben" Tillet, the labor leader, will bring forward a resolution favoring the creation of a State Board of Arbitration, with the view of preventing strikes and settling labor disputes between the workmen and the employers. A keen canvass for votes is being made on the question of an eight-hour working day, and as to whether eight hours, if adopted as the limit of a day's work, shall be made a legal day's work, and compulsory, or whether it shall be left to local trade option.

The Committee of Arrangements had dispute over the toasts which are to be proposed at the banquet. Some of the most loyal of the labor delegates on the committee mentioned proposed that the time honored toast "the Queen and the royal family," should be drank. To this proposition there was considerable opposition. Some of the committeemen were not in favor of drinking to the royal family, though they raised no objection to the Queen. For a time it look ed as if both "the Queen" and "the Royal family" would be dropped from the toast list. Upon cooler reflection, however, the committee came to a compromise, and agreed that "the Queen and the Country" should be the loyal toast.

The Parliamentary Committee's report just issued sets forth that it is to be regretted that the Government has given considerable balance of power to capital in the appointment of the Royal Labor Commission. The report holds that in so doing the Government is wilfully biasing the report of the inquiry now in progress upon the side of the employers of labor. The report adds that the organization of labor is making satisfactory progress throughout the country.

NEWCASTLE, Sept. 9.—The Trades Union Congress resumed its deliberations to-day. The proceedings up to the present have disclosed that, amongst the new trades unions there is a predominance of a feeling which shows that they are deeply imbued with socialism and kindred doctrines. Ben Tillett, Burns and other leaders are opposed to the old unionists led by Thomas Burt, M. P. the president of the present congress, and by Charles Fenwick, member of Parliament for the Wansbeck division of Northumberland, who, like Burt, is a son of a working collier, and has worked in the coal mines himself, and other members of Parliament who are leaders of labor forces:

The first test of the strength of these two parties was in a vote taken yesterday upon the question of an international eight-hour law. Although the vote was taken on the system of a proportionial money vote (as decided on Monday, that the unions represented at the Congress should pay a tax of be all right.

one pound per thousand members before they were allowed to vote, a proposition strongly opposed by London trades unions,) it gave the new union men a decisive victory, and, it should be added, if there had have been greater. The new men thereupon declared that all subsequent voting should be by show of hands.

Delegates representing the Northern Miners' Trade Unions led the opposition to the proposition to place the Congress on record as being in favor of the international eight-hour law. They contended that a universal law fixing uniform hours of work so great an advance been made during the would seriously injure the workmen outside of certain favored districts.

Delegate Knight, representing the Boilermakers' Union, declared he could not see in foreign governments' interference in the labor problem a reason why it is proposed to ask the British Government to regulate the hours of labor in Great Britain. This, according to the speaker, was to go back a hundred years.

At the resumption of busines to-day, by a vote of 242 to 156, the motion that the bill reducing or fixing the hours of labor ought to be of permissive or optional character was carried.

SHOWED THEIR MANHOOD.

Australian Workmen Assert Their Independence.

During the recent political campaign in Australia an incident occurred from which Canadian laborers might well take example. For once, in the antipodes, labor struck out for itself and knocked the capitalists silly. The civil servants were granted it is not unusual for a young woman to help a half holiday in order that they might attend the nominations. This official recognition of the rights of voters was acted upon in ten dances, try to elope twice, teach the all government departments, except the railways. In their usual autocratic manner, heads of that department refused to allow the railway employees even an hour to attend the nominations. The reason for this was not far to seek. A majority of the employees were opposed to the Government and desired to give a helping hand to the labor candidates. For that reason the com missioners, who seem to think they not only own the railways but the men themselves, ignored the Government order of a half holiday. However, a number of the employees, not to be defrauded of their rights in such an off-hand fashion, called a hasty meeting and resolved to leave off work at 12 o'clock and did so, and thus showed that they were free men, determined not to be dragooned by those who impudently attempted to set the government at defiance to advocate the equal rights of men. We Furthermore, on polling day it was first of are now very aged persons, and it would be invested in these little affairs. Erastus vote, and a large number of men who, although disfranchised by the iniquitous electoral laws, had intended to render youman rights for men and women. We should have service to the labor candidates feared that they would have to choose between foregoing the holiday they were legally entitled to or submit to instant dismissal from the ser- Commonwealth ought to be allowed to vice. However, it appears the commissioners thought discretion the better part of valor, and caved in, giving the employees the gazetted holiday.

Pearl Fisheries.

The most important marine pearl fishery in America is carried on in the Gulf of California, where the true pearl oysters are plentifully found. Recently the fisheries have been let by franchise from the Mexican government to a company in San Francisco. The beds were first discovered 300 years ago by Hernando Cortez when he discovered Lower California, He took possession of guard against theft.

After the bivalves have been opened and any precious contents removed the shells pool, London and Hamburg, where they sell at from ten to twenty cents a pound. The from \$150,000 to \$200,000 a year, but the ormous pearl, the pride of the Spanish regalia, weighing 400 grains, was secured there, as well as hundreds of other beauties of great value.-Washington Star,

O'Donovan Rossa wants to visit Ireland, but cannot do so for fear of arrest as the U. S. authoritiei won't guarantee that he will

Woman's Rapid Advancement.

For a generation or two the advancement of women and the amelioration of her conbeen a show of hands their majority would dition has been one of the most potent attract public attention. And the public was not only ready but eager to be attracted in this way. It was an inviting field of reas principles of abstract right found room for action. The result shows how powerful the former influence is. In no direction has last thirty years as in the condition of woman. Law after law has been passed in her favor, giving her legal and social privileges, until the statute books are cumbered with them. In nearly every State woman has almost all the rights accorded to a man except the right of suffrage, and in one State she enjoys that privilege in full, and in twentytwo others to a limited extent.

Not to take into account the bills for wo man suffrage before every Legislature, there are enough other signs to show that the advancement of woman is going on at a startling rate. The newspapers have recorded the facts that the Colorado Senate had chosen a young woman for its reading clerk; that the Wisconsin Legislature had passed a bill allowing women to be Court Commissioners, and that a young woman phrenologist had opened an office in Baltimore. And men who are afraid to be derided as "Old-menwho-are-afraid-of-the-girls" are asking themselves whether this so-called progres is to go on until it reaches the Kansas degree of advancement, where in one season plant corn, drive a four-horse self-binder, do the housework for a family of seven, go to most interesting class in Sunday-school, and talk about going to Africa as a mission-

Two years ago a Boston paper amused itself speculating as to the condition of things in the Massachusetts Legislature in 1901. It gave a vivacious description of that body, composed wholly of women and considering a measure to disfranchise men. After some debate a member rises, and, addressing the Chair, says: "Mrs. Speaker, I hold in my hands a remonstrance. It is headed by Mrs. Lucy Stone, Mary A. Livermore, and all the survivors of the Old Guard of the wo man suffragists in this State. They say: We came before you year after year for many years to advocate the equal rights of woman. It never occurred to one of us in those days that it would be ever necessary porter: measure will pass, we shall come before you yet once more to speak in favor of equal no long arguments to make before you. Taxation without representation is tyranny.

A decade hence may be too soon to expect a realization of such a prophecy, but all years ago a man in England, who kept a present signs point to the conclusion that tavern, made use of the slot machine. This the future is pretty certain to fulfil the prediction unless something is done soon to check this headlong advancement of the penny in the slot and it struck a lever which weaker sex.—Philadelphia Press.

"ADVANCE AUSTRALIA."

Sir George Grey, the Single Tax Leader.

Henry George sends the following letter to the New York Standard : "I should also them and sent a number of fine pearls to like to take this opportunity to say to our the King of Spain. Divers gather the oysters friends in Australia that although I have and a strict police system is maintained to not wrote to them, my heart responds with joy and pride to the work they have done and the victories they have won. "Advance Australia !" The motto is justified, themselves are cleaned and sent to Liver- for to-day the commonwealths beneath the southern cross lead the single tax van. Queensland has followed South Australia in pearls from this fishery at one time brought driving in the entering wedge, in the imposition of a tax on land values, irrespective beds have been so overworked that their of improvements. In New South Wales value has been much diminished. An en- single tax men hold the balance of power in the Legislature, and Sir Henry Parks is in office by their votes. In Victoria the domin. ance of protection is broken, and the very men among the labor leaders who a year ago opposed me most bitterly are advocating the single tax. In South Australia by elections have so changed the character of the Legislative Council that the passage of what we sharp.

would call the Local Option Bill, giving to the municipalities the power of raising all their taxes on the value of land, irrespective of improvements, is almost certain to be carried into law. In New Zeland the direct tax on property has been changed to a tax slogans with which reformers have tried to on land values, irrespective of improve-

"These great results are largely due to the character and eloquence of Sir George form, in which human sympathies as well Grey, ex-Governor of South Australia, ex-Governor of the Cape, ex-Governor and ex-Premier of New Zealand, soldier, explorer. diplomatist, statesman who has held absolute power and who has led constitutional parties, a long life now drawing toward sunset leaves him the honors of one who on prominent stages has shown himself 'without fear and without reproach,' and makes him personally the largest character south of the equator among English speaking men. It was his intention to have sailed with me last year for a visit to England and perhaps the United States, but seeing the opportunity that was coming he wisely abandoned that, and passing over to Australia insteads made a series of addresses through the colonies that created a great impression. I now learn that he is again thinking of paying his long-deferred visit to England, and I hope to the United States,"

SLOT MACHINES.

The Immense Profit That is Made Out of Their Operations.

Two young men entered the Lafayette cafe recently and ordered drinks, says the Philadelphia Press. While the barkeeper was preparing them one of the young men turned to a slot machine which advertised that it could tell anyone's age. He dropped a nickle in the slot, followed the instructions printed, and soon obtained a card on which were the figures, "20 years, 6 months, 19 days."

"By George, that is my age to the day!" he exclaimed.

The bartender looked up and said: "Is that so? Are you really 20 years

"Yes," replied the guileless youth.

"I am very sorry," continued the bartender, "but if that is so I can't sell you any drinks; you are a minor."

An elderly gentleman with a gray beard stood by with an amused smile while that was going on, and told the bartender that he was right. The elderly man proved to be J. W. Brooks. of New York, who is heavily interested in the slot machines, and in speaking of them he said to a Press re-

"There is an immense amount of capital all stated that no employee would be granted hard to climb the State House steps, but if Wiman, of New York, was the first to bring the gazetted public holiday unless he had a there is any danger that this iniquitous them to this country, I believe, and about 1886 he placed in the large American cities weighing machines. These make a great deal of money, and then H. K. Thurber started in with the slot machine which sold candy and chocolate. Mr. Wiman thought As a matter of simple justice the men of this he had a patent for the United States, and a costly lawsuit followed. During this the records of the patent office at Washington were examined and they found that 100 was a tin box containing tobacco. The frequenters of his tavern dropped a halfopened the box. Then the purchasers took out a pinch of tobacco and put in one of the pipes lying around on the table in the bar room. This is the first slot machine of which any record is known. Nowadays they sell everything in them, especially in England. where they are used for postage stamps. In Washington the other day I saw a slot machine into which you drop two nickles, and from which you obtain a glass of rockand-rye. I do not think that any of the machines cost over \$30. And if only one cent profit is made every day, it means ten per cent, interest on the investment. The first month our company placed a machine in the Hoffman House in New York city it took in \$46. A certain dry goods firm recently put out a lot of slot machines which sell lead pencils. You put a penny in the slot and out comes a pencil nicely sharpened and covered with the advertisement of the firm. The latter estimates that the advertisement pays all expenses, and so the pennies taken in are clear profit."

> A friendly match of quoits will be played between the Caledonian and Dominion clubs this afternoon on the grounds of the former club, Forfar street, commencing at 8 o'clock