

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.

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.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

(INVARIABLELY IN ADVANCE.)

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ADVERTISEMENTS.

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Contract Advertisements at the following rates:—
One column, for one year \$150 00
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All communications should be addressed to the Office, 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.

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.
Crispins, (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.

OUR PATRONS.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS THIS WEEK.

Election Notice—H. L. Hime.
Election Notice—Thomas Downey; James Fleming;
Joseph Gearing.
Properties for Sale—Clark & Feilde.
Bay Street Book Bindery—Wm. Blackhall.
Gold and Silver Plater—Peter West.
Holiday Presents—Coleman & Co.

The Ontario Workman.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, DEC. 12, 1872.

CREDIT VALLEY RAILROAD.

The vote on the proposed by-law to aid and assist the Credit Valley Railroad Company takes place to-morrow [Friday]. Let those who are interested in the matter be at work early in the day.

MUNICIPAL MATTERS.

Unusual activity prevails in respect to the coming municipal elections. Large numbers of candidates are soliciting the suffrages of the people in every ward. What are the workingmen doing in the matter? Who shall be their candidates? It is high time a move was being made in this direction.

LIEN LAW.

We would direct particular attention to the Ottawa correspondence. It treats of a matter that should command immediate attention. We have only to add we shall be happy to receive any communications in accordance with the suggestions offered in the letter.

AMALGAMATION.

The Painters' Union of this city, though comparatively small in numbers, is in a vigorous and prosperous condition. We understand they are now making arrangements to correspond with sister Unions throughout the Province, with a view of forming a National Association. This is a very wise and timely step, and we hope their efforts will be crowned with abundant success. Any correspondence on the subject can be addressed to the WORKMAN office.

BE IN EARNEST.

The following remarks from the "Cooper's Journal," we commend to the attention of our readers:

When a man gifted with an ordinary or average share of physical strength and mental power, fails in an undertaking or purpose, or fails in life, the chances are ten to one, that his lack of success was due to a want of earnestness in sedulously pursuing the object or purpose sought to be attained. And in like manner when an organized movement tends in disaster, without accomplishing its mission, we may very reasonably attribute the failure to the same cause, a want of earnestness. The man who is inflexibly earnest, ardently, intently fixed, eagerly, zealously serious in the prosecution of an enterprise or object of any kind, will invariably succeed, and the same is equally true of a combination of men. If we were really intent upon arriving at a given result and used the whole force of our being with an eye single to that end, failure could not possibly overtake us. Unions sometimes disband or become so weakened in power as to become incapable of producing any tangible, beneficial result. Why? Reader, can you not readily answer? Is it not because the men of which the union was or is composed, were or are not in earnest? Can there be any other reason? Spurgeon has, perhaps, more hearers than any other living preacher, simply because when he mounts the pulpit to speak, he becomes an embodied earnestness, a type of animated, feverish vehemence. We could give numerous historical examples of what earnest men have achieved but will content ourselves with one. Toward the end of the eleventh century all Europe appeared to rise up in one phrenzied mass and pour out a living torrent of humanity, which flowed on towards the Holy Land for years. The people were mad, wild with military ardor and enthusiasm. Cross-emblazoned banners waved all over Europe. Princes, Kings, Lords and vassals joined the Crusade which moved towards Jerusalem, and whittened many a mile of burning desert with their countless bleaching bones. And all this—the awakening of a continent to arms—was done by one ordinary mortal, Peter the Hermit. He did not claim to be a saint or a prophet—he was simply a man who conceived a purpose, and by being terribly, fearfully in earnest, he produced the result before us. If we are earnest in anything we cannot fail; if we are even half in earnest we will not fail. We are often exasperated and provoked beyond measure, by the receipt of letters which inform us that some union is about to fail or disband. It is not the news which maddens us, it is the cool temerity with which we are told that but five or six men in the locality can be depended upon, when if there was even one who could be depended upon, the letters had never been written. We repeat it and insist upon it, that one man, thoroughly in earnest and full of eagerness, importunity, warmth of inclination, seriousness and desire, can prevent any union from disbanding. Nay, more, can make a good union of a bad one. We have no appreciation for those men who write that their union is going down because no one but themselves manifests any interest in it. The only difference between them and the others is a difference of opinion merely. They would like to see the union succeed and prosper, but they will not strip off their coats, roll up their sleeves, pitch in and force success and prosperity. Oh, no! they will content themselves with wishing that things were different. But we want them to remember that this is not an age of wishing caps. This is an age of stern fact, reality, work and effort. Now let us come down to business, for after all, action is the sublimest kind of speech. Is there a man in the organization who would not give one day willingly, if by so doing he could secure a better and more efficient organization? Reader, if you are a member of the union, just pause here for a moment; we want to have a little practical chat with you.

Very well, you pause. You tell us your Union is languishing, going forward

like a lobster; and you further tell us you would do almost anything to prevent this disgraceful termination. You would do almost anything? Yes. Will you devote one day to preventing it? We are now coming to business; we are eminently practical. Yes, you will lose a day. All right then; off with your apron, start at once; delays are dangerous; visit every man in the place who now belongs, or who should belong to the Union. As you are about to set out, let us whisper some advice in your ear: You are to be earnest, but not abusive; you are to be persuasive, but not impudent; you are to be convincing, but not domineering; you are to be firm; but not autocratic; you are to be a propagandist, but no a ranting fanatic; you are to be vehemently zealous, full of fervor and desire, but very urbane and gentlemanly.

Visit every man you can—the more the better, but do your work well, if you visit but three. Convince by sound argument and good reason, not by noise, or appeals to passion. Exact from each man you visit a promise to attend the next meeting, and when that evening rolls round, be you there promptly, and aid in completing the work you have inaugurated.

If you do this, and surely if you have any desire to better your condition you will do it, we can guarantee you results and benefits you hardly dream probable or possible. Better and grander results can be secured in this simple manner, than if we were to visit you, and make speeches for a month.

We don't believe in tongue threshers, although we are some times compelled to be one; nor do we think much of the men who are led away by the eloquence of orators, or persons who claim to be orators. This is an age of reason, of common, practical sense. Our cause is just, its principles are founded in right and equity; it means the moral and social elevation of the down-trodden, the poor, the humble and lowly, and hence it is holy, and God-like. If this faith is firmly rooted in your soul, go earnestly to work and implant it in the souls of others.

We are often struck with the energy with which one workingman endeavors to convert another to his way of thinking, politically, and we believe in our soul if our people were just half as earnest in advocating Unionism as they are in advocating their peculiar shades of political belief, we would have much better Unions, better organization, better wages and better men.

We have drawn this subject out much longer than we intended, but as we close, we again say to our co-laborers in the cause of labor, be in earnest; and before you are a day older prove your earnestness by devoting a day to the cause yet have espoused. Go immediately and see your erring and wavering brothers; talk to them, reason with them; and if you only are as zealous as you should be, you will have the satisfaction of seeing them again in the fold.

THE CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT ACT.

On Saturday afternoon, a conference took place between Mr. J. J. Grieve, M.P. for Greenock, and a delegation representing the trades of masons, joiners, plasterers, plumbers, slaters, painters, iron-moulders, blacksmiths, coopers, letter-press-printers, brassfounders, carpenters, rope-spinners, riggers, and copper-smiths in that town, was held in regard to the Criminal Law Amendment Act. The delegation ascribed the bill as obnoxious to the workingmen of the country, and stated that trades unionists were as a class more peaceably disposed and moral than non-unionists, and asked why a special Act should be considered, necessary for the working-classes of this country while the employers were not so dealt with. Mr. Grieve said he had as a rule been against coercive and penal legislation. He believed the working-men in this country had a just appreciation of the relative states of society in this country, and if treated with confidence, would be found to play their part as good citizens as well as any other section of the community, no matter how far elevated in the social scale. The conflicts between capital and labour were now conducted with great moderation and intelligence on both sides. He was

prepared for a modification of the penal clauses of Criminal Law Amendment Act, or a repeal of the Act altogether, believing the working man would duly appreciate the confidence reposed in him, and thereby justify the Legislature in dealing justly between man and man. He would be very glad to co-operate with any member of the Government or of the House, such as Mr. Hughes, Mr. Mandella, or Mr. Anderson, who brought forward any modification of the Bill, so as to take away anything like distrust in the people for whom it was intended. The deputation thanked the honorable gentleman and withdrew.

Communications.

CONVICT LABOR.

(To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.)

SIR,—In the *Globe* of December 3rd, I observed an article entitled "Objections to Convict Labour," and thinking from the title that it embodied something practical, I proceeded to its perusal; and in the first place, whoever heard any sane man object to criminals being made to sustain themselves as far as possible? I will fearlessly say, no one; and yet this is the base from which the *Solon of the Globe* proceeds to argue the subject and ridicule those who question the wisdom or honesty of the Ontario Government in their dealings on the part of the people in the disposal of Ontario's Convict Labor to the Canada Car Company. Now, I hold there is not, nor can there be any issue between those who differ with the Ontario Government and the *Globe* theory, on the ground of a good, sound, practical, industrial moral and intellectual training of the convict, while in the custody of the State; but in the way of carrying out the details of such a training we do differ. In the first place the most objectionable feature is the plan known as the contract system. This system carries on the face of it one of the very worst evils that our social system has to complain of—that of the middle man, and in this instance, at the expense of the State; but the evil is made doubly grievous, contrary to the best interests of the industrial public, by creating a monopoly in one particular branch of industry, largely carried on in this locality employing remuneratively large numbers of honest, industrious mechanics who will have to succumb to the effects produced by a State pampered monopoly. Those who differ then, with the powers that be in the matter of prison labor, it is mainly on these grounds, namely, the contract system in its very worst form, and the making a speciality of a calling.

Truly, the productive industries of the State have been at the expense of prosecuting the criminal and constructing a receptacle for them, and will have to meet all the deficits connected with their confinement; and deficits there will be, for prisons can never be made paying institutions. Then, as a partial equivalent for all those responsibilities, the public have the productive energies of the convict while confined as public property. Is it extravagant, then, on the part of the honest labor of the State, to demand that this convict labor be employed in a way that will least conflict with outside labor, and at the same time preserve due regard for the prisoners discipline and reformation.

I will refer to this subject again perhaps in your next.

Yours truly,
JOHN HEWITT.

HAMILTON.

(To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.)

SIR,—The time is rapidly approaching for the nomination of candidates for Municipal election, and as a workingman, I would earnestly urge on my brother workmen, the propriety of using the time still at their disposal in a careful outlook for some one, who despite of outside influence, and a desire for place, shall do his best to protect and further the interests of the working classes, and seeing that our fair city has been already the first in the Dominion to set the example by sending a workingman as our representative to the House of Commons. Surely there are plenty and of the right kind still left among us to champion our interests in the City Council, not only here but also in all the large centres of labor.

Fellow workmen! arouse yourselves! and show in the forthcoming elections that the treatment you have received during the year that is just closing from your *pseudo* friends in the Council, has been such as to warrant the expulsion from their seats at the Board, of every one who voted against the right of the working men to enjoy the temporary use of their own public property—the Crystal Palace grounds—on the memorable 15th May last.

Other questions are before us in the future, the subsidizing of various railway schemes got up by a few, and I am suspicious, at the expense of the many, ourselves. Let us therefore be chary of giving or voting any further sums for railway extension till we have first arranged for the liquidation of present debts. Let our first attention be devoted to the thorough drainage and cleansing of what ought to be one of the easiest drained, and

consequently cleanest and healthiest cities in the world, viz., our Ambitious City. Let her ambition for the present be to lay drains in localities much in need thereof, clean out all the filthy alleys, brush and stamp out loafers and rowdiness, and above all furnish a better class of dwelling houses for working men, who at present are paying higher rents for inferior accommodation than can be had in any town in the old country with a population triple or even quadruple of the city.

With these and other important objects in view let us sink all minor difficulties, creed, nationalities and politics, and endeavour to send the right man to the right place.

Yours truly,

SENEC.

Hamilton, Dec. 10, 1872.

OTTAWA.

(To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.)

SIR,—In your issue of October 31st, you gave an account of a trade dispute at Ottawa, when, after giving the particulars of the dispute, you gave it as your opinion that some steps should be taken to make such representations to the Government as would cause them to pass a law to protect the employes on all works. That such a law is necessary is patent to all, and it has surprised me very much that no one among the very many interested, has thought of making a move in this matter, and as the time is fast approaching when Parliament will meet, there should be no more time lost but go to work at once, and when once started to work with a will.

What I would propose is to petition the Government to enact a Mechanic's Lien Law for the Dominion. This law, if passed, would at once place the workingmen beyond the power of unprincipled contractors; and in order to give proper effect to our petition it is necessary that every Trades' Union should take the matter into consideration and appoint delegates to act conjointly in their respective cities, in obtaining signatures to the petition, and at the proper time for those delegates to select one of their number, making one from each city, to lay the matter before the government, and also to take all necessary steps to secure the passing of the law. Should this proposal meet with the approval of the several Trades Unions, I would suggest that in order to make a move at once, and lose no more time, the several Secretaries be instructed to write to you, if you would consent to act as Secretary, signifying the approval of their respective Unions, and that you be requested to have slips struck off with proper printed heading and send two to each Secretary to have filled up with signatures and sent back to you to await the action of the joint delegation. The expenses of the whole to be paid by the different Unions.

The above is my view of the ways and means by which we may have a law to protect us; but if there is any one who can suggest a better and more expeditious way I will be most happy to hear from him through your columns, and would use all my humble endeavours to further his schemes.

Hoping that something will be done in this matter, and if the laboring classes would only view it in its proper light they would see the necessity that exists for making a move at once.

I remain, yours respectfully,
STONECUTTER.

Ottawa City, December 7, 1872.

OSHAWA.

(To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.)

SIR,—In my last letter I promised to give the character of the Joseph Hall Works, in so far as the workmen in the establishment are treated.

I believe that men are being advertised for, at the present time; but as the wages are cut, and a number of men discharged every fall, married men with families had better consider well before they accept work and move their families here.

I am informed that numbers are working for \$1.37 1/2, and some as low as \$1.25 per day. Of course there are those whom it would not be safe to cut. It may be asked why it is that the wages can be cut so low. If the statement of a blacksmith, who came here during the summer is to be believed, it gives the reason why. The man referred to stated that on his arrival at Quebec, the emigration agent there read a letter to him, which the agent stated he had received from the president of the Joseph Hall Works, in which it was stated that twenty blacksmiths were required, and as the agent had only sent two, he was certain to find employment. On his arrival in Oshawa in company with another man, also a blacksmith, they proceeded at once to the works; but were sadly disappointed to find that there was no opening for either of them. They were told by the president to call next day, which they did, but he was conveniently absent. Such is the statement of the man who had to work as a laborer in order to obtain sufficient money to carry him back to England, disgusted with the country.

It would be well if Messrs. Witton or Beatty would move for a return of the numbers of the various trades, which have been applied for to the emigration agent at Quebec, and the numbers which have been sent.

The President of these Works was, at one time considered a fair "Boss," but, as