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**AN EXCEPTIONAL EMPLOYER.**

An exception to the general character  
 of manufacturers in their treatment of  
 their employes is always a matter of  
 fortune. The Toiler pleasure to deal with,  
 and Mr. J. G. Grey, head of the firm  
 of Wm. & J. G. Grey, manufacturers of  
 mill machinery, affords the excuse for  
 doing so, as a result of his liberal action  
 taken last Saturday.

When the molders' strike for a nine-  
 hour day occurred on May 1 last, they  
 quit work in the Grey establishment as  
 well as others in the city. Two weeks  
 later a conference was held, at which the  
 employers and men failed to agree, but  
 as Mr. Grey promised to do whatever  
 the majority would do, the men returned  
 to work in his shop, as his record had  
 all along been fair to his men.

Since then the majority of the men  
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On their own terms, and on Saturday  
 afternoon, Mr. Grey called the men together  
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 out reduction. At the same time he in-  
 formed his large number of other em-  
 ployes that they would also receive a  
 reduction of an hour a day without re-  
 duction in pay. He would continue this  
 for one year at least, and if the result  
 was satisfactory the new arrangement  
 would be made permanent.

The action of Mr. Grey was favorably  
 received by the men, who will no doubt  
 conduct themselves in such a way as to  
 give Mr. Grey reason to be satisfied with  
 his efforts to do justice to those in his  
 employ. His example is well worth fol-  
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**THE SCARCITY OF SMALL HOUSES.**

The city of Toronto has increased  
 greatly in the last few years, not in popu-  
 lation merely, but in the one thousand and  
 one things which go to make a great and  
 beautiful city. Unfortunately, all our  
 growth does not indicate progress in the  
 right direction, for we find that although  
 there has been a large increase in the  
 number of the dwellings and quite a few  
 palatial residences have been built by  
 our wealthy citizens, there is a growing  
 scarcity of small houses. It is getting  
 more and more difficult for a clerk or a  
 young professional man to get a house at  
 a moderate rent in any desirable neigh-  
 borhood, and it is almost impossible for  
 mechanics and laborers to get small  
 houses at all. There has been much build-  
 ing done in the last few years, but the  
 houses all appear to be designed for the  
 man with a large salary or of independ-  
 ent means. The great majority of them  
 are of solid brick or masonry and have  
 artistic appearance and replete with all  
 modern conveniences, all of which is well  
 enough, but as they cost from \$4,000 up-  
 wards, they are altogether beyond the  
 means of the average man. What is re-  
 quired to-day is the erection of houses  
 costing from \$750 to \$1,500, and unless something is done  
 to supply this need, we may expect a  
 rapid increase of the tenement system.  
 Houses will be occupied by two or more  
 families, not alone to save rent, but also  
 as a result of the difficulty of getting  
 separate houses. The inevitable result  
 of this will be the lowering of both the  
 standard of comfort and the health and  
 morals of the people. This is a serious  
 matter, and demands consideration by our  
 citizens generally, and the City Council  
 particularly. It is a notorious fact that  
 this class of house is seriously discrimi-  
 nated against by our system of assess-  
 ment and taxation. Aside from the  
 stipidity of taxing a really fine house  
 for improving their property, the value  
 of small houses can be estimated so ac-  
 curately that they are always assessed at  
 considerably less, and the more expensive  
 they are the less proportionately are they  
 taxed. This discriminates in favor of  
 the wealthy who own and occupy the  
 better houses, and discourages the build-  
 ing of cheap houses, and thus force up  
 the rent which the poorer people have to  
 pay.

To meet the case and to give needed  
 encouragement to the building of dwellings  
 for the working classes it was proposed  
 that the City Council get power from the  
 Legislature to exempt all dwellings to the  
 extent of \$750. The resolution was  
 introduced by Ald. Noble, and was re-  
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 who reported against the proposal. The  
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 Only last week the same official reported  
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 ing to the attractions of the city would  
 tend to increase the population and the  
 price of vacant lots, had any weight with  
 Mr. Fleming in these recommendations.

Next week we hope to have a few  
 words to say as to the benefits which the  
 \$700 exemption of dwellings will have  
 upon the city of Toronto, and especially  
 the effect it will have upon the comfort  
 of the laboring classes.

**Scientific Optimism**

The following review of a book just  
 issued by McCure, Phillips & Co., of New  
 York, and written by Prince Kropotkin,  
 the veteran Russian reformer, who was  
 sent to Siberia for his radical views—and  
 only released on the earnest petition of  
 the British Association for the Advancement  
 of Science, who required him to elu-  
 cidate a scientific difficulty—will prove  
 interesting. The article is written by  
 Christian Gauss, and appeared in the New  
 York Sunday Times—a guarantee that it  
 does not unduly favor radical ideas but  
 is a scientific fact.

Mutual aid, a factor of evolution, is  
 the result of many years of scientific in-  
 vestigation and study on the part of the  
 author to prove that "besides the law of  
 mutual struggle there is also the law of  
 mutual aid, which, especially for the  
 species, is far more important than the  
 law of mutual contest." To prove this  
 thesis he studies in detail the facts of  
 mutual aid among animals, among sav-  
 ages, among barbarians, in the medieval  
 city, and among ourselves. After having  
 carefully followed the development of  
 this idea through these different stages,  
 he concludes that mutual aid is one of the  
 most important factors in the evolution  
 of life, and that it is to be sought the origin  
 of our ethical conceptions.

The conclusion is certainly a cheering  
 one, particularly when we consider the  
 undue emphasis which has been thrown  
 upon the struggle phase of evolution. It  
 was no less an authority than Huxley him-  
 self who not much over a decade ago told  
 us that "the Hobbesian war of each  
 against all was the normal state of exist-  
 ence," and, furthermore, "that from the  
 point of view of the moralist, the animal  
 world is in a state of mutual war, and  
 that in it are to be sought the origins of  
 our ethical conceptions."

As Kropotkin could therefore foresee,  
 his view is one which must invite discus-  
 sion; he has consequently taken all his  
 steps carefully and argued always from a  
 large collection of data. Scientist that  
 he is, he accepts the larger part of each  
 chapter he treats the examples of ten-  
 sions, survival, and where possible of  
 voluntary reversion to the more or less  
 scientific condition of the medieval city.  
 Being, in this case, however, concerned  
 merely with a theory, the author concludes  
 when he believes he has sufficiently estab-  
 lished the principle before stated, that  
 "it is not the mutual aid which we find  
 the positive and undoubted origin of  
 our ethical conceptions, and we can aff-  
 ectly support—not mutual struggle—has  
 had the leading part."

These then are the main ideas of the  
 book before us. All readers of "The  
 Memoirs of a Revolutionary" can be sure  
 of Prince Kropotkin's disinterestedness.  
 His work is not to be considered as  
 a deacon or an attempt to fraudulently  
 enlist sympathies for the Socialist cause.  
 It is a serious treatise on a question of  
 that which is not to be criticized as such,  
 and in many quarters very severely  
 criticized, for it involves immense issues,  
 and he has made no unconvincing plea.  
 Wherever the information has not been  
 drawn from the author's personal expe-  
 rience, the sources are given in the notes.  
 In very rare cases the information might  
 be considered as somewhat scanty, but  
 a point has been overargued. This the  
 author admits. He is, however, present-  
 ing a subject against which there is an  
 opinion in such a pronounced sentiment, and  
 for themselves. Scholarly and earnest,  
 none the less, it is an attempt to estab-  
 lish a principle which, whatever we may  
 think of its applications, makes possible  
 a higher and nobler interpretation of life.  
 It is the work of a man who has had his  
 baptism of fire, and who at present is  
 very possibly its ablest exponent both as  
 a writer and a philosopher. Few have  
 more resolutely elevating appeared this  
 many a day, and we are sure that not a  
 few readers who have formerly been not  
 a little sceptical to theories suggested here  
 will close the work almost persuaded.

**IMPERIALISM.**  
 If we seek to get below the surface  
 and try seriously to discover the real  
 philosophy of the imperialistic move-  
 ment, what we are struck by is the im-  
 pulsive nature of it. It is the impulse  
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It is peculiarly ill-fitted much about  
 the spread of civilization. When we shall  
 have attended better to social conditions  
 at home, then and then only shall we  
 have a civilization worthy to spread.—The  
 Public.

**THE TYRANT'S SONG.**  
 'Tis not the man with match alight  
 Who sets the barricades on fire,  
 Nor he who stoops to dynamite,  
 That makes me feel afraid.  
 For halter end and prison cell  
 Soon quench these brief alarms;  
 But where are fostered the means to quell  
 The man with folded arms?

We dread the man who folds his arms  
 And tells the simple truth,  
 Whose telling, impetuous protest charms  
 The virgin ear of youth;  
 Who scorns the vengeance that we wreak  
 And smiles to meet his doom,  
 Who wins the scaffold still can speak,  
 And preaches from the tomb.

We kill the man with dagger drawn—  
 The man with loaded gun;  
 They never see the morning dawn  
 Nor hail the rising sun;  
 But who shall kill the immortal man  
 Whom nothing mortal harms,  
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 —Ernest Crosby, in "Sword and Plow-  
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**UNLUCKY THIRTEEN**

The men who voted against  
 Organization and the Rights of  
 Citizenship. We will carry  
 them in this frame until next  
 January if the stain is not wiped  
 out before that time.

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 Lynd,  
 Foster,  
 Ramsden,  
 Harrison,  
 Hubbard,  
 Graham,  
 Spence,  
 Gurry,  
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 is a strength, body, and lasting stimulating effect  
 as well as in palatable. That it is the best  
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 Every Teasdale's XXX Porter is bottled with the  
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 Vice—J. A. Simpson, 42 Albany ave. F. S. John Garner, 319 Borden.  
 Sec. Labor Com.—D. W. Kennedy. Treas.—John Acheson, 378 Adelaide W.  
 Sec. Legislative Com.—W. A. Douglas. Sec. Municipal Com.—Jas. Simpson.  
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**FEDERATED METAL TRADES COUNCIL** S. C. Morrison, 202 Simcoe.  
 Meets 2nd and 4th Monday—Occident Hall.  
**BUILDING TRADES COUNCIL** K. A. McRae, 44 1/2 Adelaide East.  
 Meets 2nd and 4th Monday—Richmond Hall.  
**WOODWORKERS' COUNCIL** T. U. Mitchell, 432 Bathurst.  
 Meets 2nd and 4th Monday—Richmond Hall.

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 Locomotive Engineers, Div. 295. Pres. A. Sproule, Toronto Junction.  
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 Pres.—W. T. Thomson, 82 Bouverie. Sec.—J. H. Johnston, 519 King East.  
 Rec. Sec.—H. Maycock, 114 Cumberland. Robt. Haberstock, 61 McGill.  
 1st and 3rd Monday. Bus