

# Ontario Workman.

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

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## A VILLIANOUS CONTRACT.

The following is the contract which the miners are compelled to sign with the Wabash Coal Company:

### MINERS ANNUAL CONTRACT.

This agreement made this day of \_\_\_\_\_ between the Wabash Coal Company, of the first part, witness the said part of the second part, has agreed, and by these presents does agree, to enter into the employment of said party of the first part as a miner of coal, to commence on the day of \_\_\_\_\_ A. D. 1870, and to continue therein until the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, A. D. 1870, and to abide by and adhere, and to observe the rules and regulations hereto appended which are made a part of this contract, and to abide by and observe all other rules and regulations, promulgated from time to time by the said coal company for the purpose of regulating mining and other employment in and about the coal mines of said coal company, and not be absent without leave except in case of sickness or other unavoidable contingency that would prevent him from work; also to keep his room in good working order; the said party of the first part agrees to pay the said party of the second part for each ton of coal mined by him and delivered on pit cars at the face of the room where the same is mined, as follows: For mining per ton, and per yard, for driving entry double per yard single; all coal to be weighed after passing over the screens in use for the time being at the mines, the first party hereby reserves the privilege, however, of closing the mines at any time, or of reducing the number of miners by discharging them; or, such of them as the superintendent, or persons having charge of the mines for the time being, may think proper, including said second party all payments to be made at the regular pay day, in accordance with the rules and regulations aforesaid. And it is hereby expressly agreed to and understood by the party of the second part, that should he become a tenant of the party of the first part, during this agreement, that in case of its termination, either by his discharge from the said company's employ, or in any other way, he will vacate the premises so occupied by him as soon as practicable thereafter, upon verbal notice from the company, agent or superintendent, and that he will not be entitled to receive any part of the wages due him for labor performed, should the party of the first part so elect, until the premises are vacated, and the keys of the same delivered at the company's office.

In witness whereof, the said parties hereunto set their hands and seals, the day and year first above written, the Wabash Coal Company, by agent and Superintendent. Signed

SEAL

### RULES AND REGULATIONS

Of the Wabash Coal Company, adopted for the purpose of regulating mining and other employment, in and about their Coal Mines.

1. Every employe of the company will be required to be ready for duty when the whistle blows for work every morning, and will be expected to perform a full day's work, of ten hours, in his respective line of employments, unless the foreman of his department orders less time to be worked. Engineers are strictly forbidden to lower any miner or under-ground laborers into any pit after 7.30 A. M., without orders from the Superintendent or pit boss.

2. Any suspension of work during working hours by any portion, or all of the Company's employes, for the purpose of holding or attending any meeting, for any purpose whatever, above or below ground, is positively forbidden, as such practices materially increase the Company's running expenses, and result in no practical good to any one.

3. The Coal Company will not deal with any committee purporting to represent any league or combination of workmen, but will deal directly and individually with each of the employes, and not otherwise.

4. Any employe feeling aggrieved in any

respect must present his claim to the pit boss in person; if they fail to adjust the matter satisfactorily to the employe, it may be referred to the superintendent, if either party desire, whose decision upon the hearing of both sides of the question, will be final. Any employe who is not willing to abide the decision of the pit boss or superintendent on any disputed point, or who is unwilling to conform to any and all the company's rules and regulations, made from time to time, will be required to quit work at once.

5. Any employe may be discharged at any time without previous notice, and any employe wishing to leave the company's service may do so at any time without giving previous notice, but all arrearages of pay will be due and payable on the next regular pay day after leaving said employment, and not before.

6. No person will be allowed to interfere in any manner with the employer's right of employing, retaining and discharging from employment any person or persons whom the superintendent or pit boss have discharged, of the miners, for the time being. Nor interfere in any way, by threats or menace, or otherwise, with the rights of any employe at work, or engaged to work, in any way, and upon any terms, and with whom he may think proper and best for his interest, or the benefit of his family.

7. All persons in the employ of the company, either by the day or month, are positively prohibited from absenting themselves from their respective duties without proper authority. These working underground must report to the pit boss in person and obtain his consent to be absent. Surface men must obtain permission from the superintendent to leave their station. No employe will be permitted to fill his place by another man without the consent of the superintendent.

8. Every employer will be paid once a month, at the regular pay day, all wages or money he may have earned during the last calendar month previous to such pay day, after deducting any indebtedness which such employe may owe the company, or which the company, with the consent of such employe, may have assumed to pay to any other person.

9. It shall be the duty of every miner working in the mines to keep his room in said mines in good order and repair, and any such miner who shall willfully, negligently, or carelessly suffer his room to get out of order or repair, or who shall not, upon request, immediately put the said room in repair, the company may put such room in repair at the expense of the miner in default, and may retain the amount of such expense from the next or any future payment to which the said employe would be otherwise entitled, until fully reimbursed for such expense.

10. No miner who has left the employment of the company, whether voluntarily or by discharge, will be entitled to receive any arrearages of pay due him for labor performed—whether on the regular pay day or during the interval preceding pay day, until he shall have put his room in perfect working order, as required by his contract with the company. All miners leaving such employment will be required to procure a certificate of the pit boss that they have complied with the requirements of this rule, as aforesaid, before making application at the company's office for final payment.

11. Any tenant of the company, upon leaving its service, whether voluntary or by discharge, will not be entitled to receive any part of the wages due him for labor performed until he shall have vacated the premises occupied by him, and the superintendent, or other person in charge of the mines for the time being, so elect, and present the keys of the same at the office of the Wabash Coal Company.

A call has been issued to the Miners of the United States, to meet in Convention at Youngstown, O., on the second Tuesday in Oct., 1873, for the purpose of forming a Miners' National Union

## LABOR DEMONSTRATION AT PETERBOROUGH.

The Peterborough District Laborers' Union is in no way connected with the Leamington section of the Labor Movement. It already includes within its area about 100 parishes, in each of which there is a branch association, and the district is rapidly extending. Peterborough is the centre and seat of government, and the united branches number upwards of 15,000 members. Mr. B. Taylor, Souvenir House, Peterborough, who is a Poor Law Guardian and member of the Local Government Board of that city, is President and hon. Treasurer. At the last General Election he was put forward as the workingman candidate for the borough, and withdrew before the day of polling, owing to the screw being put on the workingmen by the middle and upper classes. He is, however, to champion the workingmen's cause at the coming election, and with secret voting it is thought his success will be secured.

On Saturday the second annual demonstration for this district took place in the Recreation Ground, Peterborough, where mass meetings were held during the afternoon and evening, under the chairmanship of the President. Messrs. G. Potter, G. Odger, G. Mitchell, H. Broadhurst, London and several other local speakers delivered addresses. The numbers attending the demonstration was variously estimated at between 20,000 and 30,000. In the afternoon a monster procession was formed, headed by the President in his carriage, accompanied by the London speakers, and the principal streets of the town was paraded, the members of the different branches wearing blue rosettes. Three brass bands and a number of flags and banners, upon which were inscribed suitable mottoes, enlivened the procession, which was joined by a goodly number of mechanics; and although it was market day, this immense mass was marshalled through the streets without causing the least obstruction, and scarcely any inconvenience, the whole proceedings being of the most quiet and orderly kind.

The meetings were attended by such a mass of persons it was with difficulty the speakers made themselves heard. The Chairman gave a brief history of the success his laborers, assisted by a few working men, had in a year and a half achieved, and showed that the dark forebodings and mournful prophecies of his opponents had been entirely falsified, for instead of the funds being scattered or run off with they were in the bank; and instead of the movement collapsing and dying away it had been weekly spreading and gaining ground. He pointed out the great good the movement had effected in aiding the members to migrate and emigrate, and he specially dwelt upon the cruel and tyrannical lock-out of 200 farm laborers at Haddenham, intended to break up the union and force upon the men the most odious and obnoxious terms, which, he said, by the exertions of their members, and the liberal assistance rendered by trade associations and the public, had been averted, the struggle being brought to successful issue. The Chairman also contended that the labor movement had pushed the laborers to the front, and had brought them into public notice. It had, he said, raised in the farm workmen a spirit of independence, educated, and made them more intelligent, and improved their moral habits. He especially dwelt upon the capability of properly exercising a vote, which, he said, must soon be given them by extending Household Suffrage to the counties.

Mr. G. Mitchell proposed:—

That this meeting is of opinion that labor is the source of all wealth, and that the fruits of the earth are mainly produced by the toil of the agricultural workmen who have ever been an oppressed and down-trodden class, and pledges itself to use all the legal and constitutional means to elevate the toiling million to that position in society which their value to the country entitles them to occupy, and recommends unity and combination as a means to that end.

In a plain, practical speech he adverted

on several occasions to the report of the committee appointed by Government to inquire into the condition of the agricultural laborers, pointing out their degraded position.

Mr. George Potter, in an animated and eloquent address, seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously amid great cheering.

Mr. Odger then proposed the following:—

Seeing that a large portion of the laboring population of this country is deprived of the right of voting for members of Parliament, owing to household suffrage being restricted to the boroughs, and that any class deprived of political power is necessarily a degraded and neglected body, this meeting pledges itself to use all legitimate means to procure the assimilation of the county and the borough franchise on the basis of manhood suffrage, and that a petition to this effect be signed by the chairman on behalf of the meeting, and forwarded for presentation to the House of Commons.

### FOREIGN LABOR NOTES.

There have been several strikes this week, and notably among the tilers of Saint Etienne, and among the agricultural laborers of Digby-le-Gros (Aisne). As this is the harvest time in a great many provinces in France, the reapers have struck work in several places where their employers refused to augment their wages. Thus, though the French agricultural laborers have not formed a union similar to that started in South Warwickshire two years ago, they, nevertheless, act with considerable unity of purpose. At Montpellier the strikes have subsided, and an agitation, started by the employers in favor of the establishment of councils of prudhommes, has arisen. At Algiers the same feeling has manifested itself. The demand for these boards of arbitration on the part of the colonists testifies that the manufactures and industries of Algeria are rapidly recovering from the recent commercial depression.

The project of law relating to the violation of contracts between masters and men, and the creation of chambers of commerce, has not been discussed during this session of the German Reichstag; nor does the Government intend reproducing the project at the next meeting of the Parliament; but it will propose a complete revision of the law relating to industry and manufacture. The Chancellor has demanded the Federal Council to investigate all matters relating to the condition of women and children employed in factories. It is stated that this request has been approved of; but the enquiry is of so vast a nature that it will not be completed before the next session of the Reichstag. Together with this proposition the Chancellor presented a memoir, in which he warmly advocated the system of factory inspectors, based on the same principles as those actually enforced by the British Legislature. The Minister of Commerce also considers that such an institution is indispensable to the well-being of the community. The inspectors would be chosen among the state functionaries, administrators, or from among the professional class. In dealing with this matter, Professor Schneberg, of Tiibingen, proposed that a hundred and sixty chambers of industry and labor bureaux should be established throughout all the States of Germany. This plan is, however, considered too elaborate.

The Austrian papers speak of a congress of master printers, to be convoked at Vienna, at which the principal firms of Austria, Germany, and Switzerland are to be represented. It is proposed to agree on a minimum tariff of wages to be paid to the compositors employed in the printing trade of the three countries.

### THE CIVIL SERVICE WRITERS AND THE GOVERNMENT.

The report of the Select Committee appointed to inquire whether writers appointed before August, 1871, have suffered any wrong or injustice by the cessation of the system of a progressive rate of payment was published on Tuesday. Having reviewed the course adopted by the Govern-

ment to put an end to the system of progressive rate of payment to temporary clerks and writers, the Committee express the opinion that, on a careful consideration of the regulations, and of the evidence which has been laid before them, the legal interpretation of the terms of the engagement with the writers did not preclude the Government from terminating it on giving due notice. The notice specified in the regulations was not, however, given before the cessation of a progressive rate of payment, and those writers consequently who accepted the gratuity, and to whom an increment might have accrued during the period of notice, were deprived of the augmentation of their gratuity to which that increment might have entitled them. The Committee think that although there was no legal obligation on the part of the Government to continue the engagement of the writers, yet the general character of the regulations, and the established custom of the service, afforded reasonable grounds for the expectation on the part of the writers, that as long as the work on which they were employed was to be performed in the different departments by employes of that class their services would be retained, and their progressive rate of pay continued; and having regard to all the circumstances of the case, the Committee are further of opinion that the effect of the Order in Council of the 19th August, 1871, has been to inflict a loss on those writers who came under its operation. The Committee expresses its satisfaction at the announcement made in Parliament of the intention of the Government to confer certain advantages on all the writers, and that measures are being concerted between the Treasury and the Civil Service Commissioners to give effect to those intentions. In view of all the matters brought before them, the Committee are of opinion that a restoration of the system of a progressive rate of payment will best meet the requirements of justice, give contentment to the writers, and promote the efficiency of the public service.

### Labor Notes.

The house painters and decorators of London, Eng., are on strike.

The Cigar Makers' International Union meets in Detroit, on Monday, Sept. 1st.

No fewer than eighteen new pits have been sunk in the district around Hamilton, and between that town and Glasgow.

The dispute amongst the Scotch miners as to the "special rules" has been amicably adjusted.

The number of industrial establishments in France is 150,000, employing two millions of hands, and steam power equal to 650,000 horses.

It appears that the South Yorkshire Union of miners, England, has increased by 7,000 members since its last annual demonstration.

We are pleased to learn that steps are being taken to organize a Tinsmith's National Union. Norfolk and Portsmouth, Va., deserve the credit of inaugurating the movement. Chicago Union indorses it.

At a mass meeting of colliers, held on Tuesday, 5th inst., at Blaenavon, Eng., it was decided to resume work on the terms suggested by the masters. The strike at Maesteg is also at a close.

A demonstration of the Trades Unionists was held in Edinburgh, Scot., on Saturday last. 15,000 men marched in the procession. The object of the demonstration is to protest against the Criminal Law Amendment Act.

The threatened lock-out by the iron-masters of Manchester, Eng., of a portion of their operatives has been postponed for the present, a proposition having been made to submit the difference between the employers and the workmen to a committee of arbitration.

On Thursday, 7th inst., all the cotton mills in Rochdale, Eng., and district, with the exception of three or four, were closed in consequence of the strike of cardroom operatives for an advance of 3s. a week, and about 12,000 persons have been thrown out of employment. Before the strike the masters offered to compromise the matter by conceding an advance of 2s. a week, but this was refused.