

(Cheers). He said the Scriptures taught that "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof," but in worldly practice that had been reversed to that "the earth is the landlord's." The working classes had been dodged out of their rights by aristocrats, capitalists, and money-mongers. There were at present 30 millions of uncultivated acres of land in this country. In strong language he denounced the game laws, and advised those who wanted sport to go to Africa and hunt lions, tigers, and leopards, instead of stopping at home to shoot hares, rabbits, pheasants, and grouse. The law of primogeniture and entail should be abolished from the statute books as a disgrace to modern civilization. Poaching under the game laws was severely punished, but at best it was only a nominal crime, and it had really no more right to be made a crime than it should be an offence to breathe the pure air of heaven. The land of England, if properly cultivated, would feed three times the population, but it was at present manipulated and used to keep the working classes in poverty, and to make them the tools of the aristocracy and capitalists (cheers).—Mr. Riddle seconded the resolution.—Messrs. Evans, McAra, H. Evans, and Weston subsequently addressed the meeting, and formed resolutions, protesting against the present condition of waste lands, calling upon the Government to take immediate steps for employing surplus labor in their proper cultivation, and appointing a deputation to wait upon the Premier in order to induce him to take the whole subject into consideration. Having been proposed, and, as a necessary consequence, adopted, as were the preceding ones, the meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

MacEvoy's Hibernicon is on exhibition during the present week in the St. Lawrence Hall. The scenery, etc., is finely executed. Those who wish to enjoy a pleasant evening's entertainment, should not lose the opportunity of witnessing the Hibernicon, and at the same time have a hearty laugh at the eccentricities of Barney the guide and Nora.

JOURNALISTIC.

We regret to learn that the *Northern Journal* of Montreal has ceased to exist. The paper was certainly one of the best edited weeklies in the Dominion. Mr. Stee, however, holds out the half promise that some future day he may resume its publication.

We have received the first numbers of a new daily paper, just started in St. Catharines—the *Daily News*. It is neatly got up and reflects much credit upon the enterprising proprietor. As a daily paper, it is just what the go-ahead town of St. Catharines needed. The selections are short and spicy, it evidently being the creed of the editor that "variety is the spice of life." We sincerely hope Mr. Matheson will have no reason to regret his journalistic enterprise in the town of saints.

"THE HOURS OF LABOR."

History of the Contest for Short Hours in England—Murder of the Innocents in Factories—History of the Contest in America and in Europe—Social and Political Aspects of the Question—Significant Statistics—The Sanitary Aspect.

(FROM THE HAMILTON STANDARD.)

CONTINUED.]

THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMICAL ASPECT.

When the Birmingham resolution was reported in London, several daily papers asserted that, if carried it would make the nation 20 per cent poorer. The bulk of a nation's wealth is no indication of the well-being of the population. That wealth may be private property of a few individuals, and the working populations, like our agricultural laborers, may be in a wretched state.

The taxable property of Boston, as stated by the assessors in 1868 was about \$500,000,000, nearly double what it was in 1856 and 75 per cent more than it was in 1862. The increase was therefore much faster during the latter years than the former, and yet the condition of the working classes has materially deteriorated during the latter six years; it has been proved by official documents that they were better off when the taxable property was but \$250,

000,000 than they are now. [The assertions of the London papers were based on the assumption that every man and woman willing and able to work does, on an average, work ten hours a day. This is by no means the case; let us look at a few trade secretaries' reports just to hand. The Glass Bottle-makers of Yorkshire have during the last four years paid £2,545 19s. 8½d. to members out of employment, out of a total income of £6,067 12s. 7d. The Amalgamated Engineers paid to members out of work: 1867, £58,242; 1868, £64,979; 1869, £59,980; 1870, £32,707. The Amalgamated Carpenters and Joiners: 1867, £5,271; 1868, £58,71; 1869, £3,204; 1870, £10,052. These figures relate only to members completely out of work; they furnish no index to the number who were only partially employed. We have here only a peep at the elite, we know nothing of those who are belong to the societies that are exposed to the possibility of having ordinarily so many members out of work that no provision can be made for their relief, nor of those who do not belong to any society. But what we do know of these matters is sufficient to demonstrate that there is nothing like approximate regular employment at ten hours a day for all those who are willing and able to work, and whose very existence depends on working. A reduction of the hours of labor would not diminish the amount of the national wealth, but it would spread the employment for its creation over a large area, and slightly alter its distribution in favor of the poor.

If ten hours a day sufficed in the dark ages to make some people rich, and feed, clothe, and shelter the poor, one would think that a little less would suffice for the same purposes now. It is estimated that the productive power of the machinery of the United States is more than equal to the labor of 500,000,000 human beings. The productive labor of the machinery of this country is variously estimated to be equal to from 300,000,000 to 500,000,000 pair of hands. There was lately an agitation going on in the factory districts to close the mills at twelve o'clock instead of two o'clock on Saturdays; and, with very few honorable exceptions, the mill-owners opposed it on the same grounds that they have opposed all reductions of the hours of labor. One opponent calling himself "Common Sense," raised his voice in January, 1871, in the Manchester papers. He opened grandiloquently about the drudgery of little children, and, taking the lowest estimate of our productive machinery, went on to say:—"The result is as if each laborer had within the last hundred years been gifted with ten sets of limbs and senses, and yet had only one body to clothe and one stomach to feed;" and he asked, "Why is not the laborer ten times better off than he was a hundred years ago? Taxation and drink are, in his Common Sense opinion, the reasons why the laborer is not better off than he is, and why he must work as many hours as he does. He reckons up to a nicety how many minutes every man, woman and child has to work every day to pay for taxes and drink, and comes to the conclusion that twenty minutes a day, or two hours a week, might be saved out of the military expenditure, and fifty minutes a day, for drink, which would in all amount to seven hours a week. This is the only chance he can see for the reduction of the hours of labor.

However, the modern direction of legislation, though greatly hampered and impeded, could not be diverted by such sophistry. The act of 1833 was seven times subjected to the progress of being amended, till at last it culminated in limiting the working hours of children to six a day, and the hours of labor of adults to sixty hours a week. After more Royal Commissions, this law was extended to all trades in which women and children are employed, by the Workshops' Act of 1866, which is now in a very fair way of being carried out. Thus, after three-quarters of a century of angry controversies and successive fruitless attempts at legislation, the legal limitation of the hours of labor has at length been established, and the average length of the working day of the dark ages, when demigods spun but one thread, has been restored for the common benefit of all concerned.

(To be continued.)

THE FRENCH INDEMNITY.

The last payment of twenty millions sterling of the indemnity by France to Germany having been made principally in bills on England, anxiety is felt in monied circles to know to what use Germany will put her power of exacting gold. It is usual for the Bank of England, when a drain sets in, reducing the stock of bullion one or two millions, to raise the rate of interest in order to bring back gold, and in proportion as the bullion in vault diminishes, the rate of interest goes up; but now an exceptional case occurs quite out of the com-

mercial line, affording no data to guide operations. There were very heavy subscriptions of the French loan in England, and the instalments which make up the twenty millions must cause an outflow of gold. The *Economist* remarking on the large money transfer, says:—

On a former occasion the French government paid certain Paris and other bankers a commission for guaranteeing the payment of certain instalments of the indemnity to Germany. But now M. Thiers has declined to do anything so absurd. He feels himself too rich to need it. The effect of this great payment from the French to the German Government in bills is to give to the German Government a great credit in the London money market, and a consequent power over that market. We entirely believe that the Germans will exercise their "authority," for such it is, reasonable, and with every fair regard to London convenience. But still they will consider their own convenience first, and we can hardly tell in London what the German idea of future German convenience may be.

PROSPERITY OF INDIA.

India under the late Governor-General, it is universally acknowledged, entered on a new stage of material prosperity. Internal improvements were rapidly pushed forward, and the accustomed victories of war for which its history has been so famous, were changed into those of peace.

We are glad to see, too, that there is now reported an improvement in the Budget. The finances were always the weak part of the Anglo-Indian administration. A company of traders was, as a matter of course, unscrupulous in the means it took to raise a revenue, and didn't enquire too narrowly into the measures adopted by its servants if East India stock only paid good dividends. Hence it happens that opium figures so largely in the Budget, which has an ugly look, just as ardent spirits contribute so much to our revenue. We quote from an exchange:—

"Allah has made white the face of the Indian Chancellor, and our Asiatic Budget for next year is likely to be a most prosperous one. First of all the opium sales at Poona and Benares are averaging down to date £143 sterling per chest. This is at the rate of thirteen pounds a chest better than the estimate announced by Mr. Grant Duff; and if it holds all round, as is likely enough, the surplus anticipated will be higher by at least ten lakhs of rupees. In the next place the Indigo harvest has turned out admirably good; in lower Bengal the produce is computed at fifty per cent. in excess of that returned last season; and good judges set the crop at the large figure of 125,000 maunds. Opium and Indigo are monopolies, and pour their profits directly into the Government exchequer, so that this is very good news indeed for the fiscal department of our great Oriental Empire."—*English Paper.*

A HORRIBLE TRAFFIC.

(From the Boston Globe.)

Many of our readers will remember the account which reached this country a year or more ago of the massacre of a white settlement at Tanna, in the Navigator's Islands, by the natives. As down to that time the reports of visitors to the islands of the South Pacific had been unanimous as to the kindness, generosity and hospitality of the natives of this particular group, there was difficulty in accounting for so sudden and ferocious an outbreak. The British government, under whose auspices the settlement of Tanna had been made, despatched a man-of-war to that harbor for the purpose of ascertaining the facts in the case and demanding reparation. It was discovered upon investigation that the massacre was hardly to be accounted for on the ground of the natural bloodthirstiness of the natives, but that good cause existed for the hostile feeling which resulted in the unfortunate outbreak. It appears that for the past five years a regular system of kidnapping the inhabitants of the islands has been carried on, resembling the African slave trade in its worst features. These diabolical acts have been perpetrated by owners of British vessels, and the islanders seized by them carried to English colonies in Queensland or those in Fiji and Tahiti, where they have been sold in precisely the same manner as cattle. Since 1868 this horrible traffic has largely increased, driving the natives to such a pitch of terror and desperation that they look upon all whites as their enemies alike, and see peace and safety only in their annihilation or expulsion from the islands of the group. An American traveler who remained for several months at one of the settlements, and who had ample opportunities for observation, gives an account of the manner in which these outrages upon the population are perpetrated.

The vessels devoted to the traffic come close in shore and cast anchor for the ostensible purpose of procuring water or fruit, and hold out remarkable inducements to the islanders to trade. If a hundred or more can be enticed on board, they are seized and crowded into the hold, and at once the vessel sets sail for the port determined upon for the market. When the natives seem too shy and suspicious, another programme is substituted. In the dead of night a party of forty or fifty sailors, fully armed and provided with kerosene swabs, are rowed silently to the shore. A hurried march is made to the nearest village, the huts surrounded, and the lighted kerosene swabs thrown into the dry thatch, which is ablaze in an instant. The wretched creatures within, aroused by the flames and the shouts of the assailants, rush terror-stricken into the open air, only to be seized, bound, and hurriedly driven to the boats. Those who attempt resistance are either maimed or killed outright, while the women are driven into the boats like sheep, and treated in the most horrible manner when on board the vessel. The little children are left to starve, or, if too annoying in their cries after their parents, knocked on the head. These facts, which have been fully substantiated by investigation since made by the British Government, seem to us good and sufficient reason for the feeling of the islanders towards white settlers and visitors. Surely heathenism in its worst state is infinitely better than such barbarous civilization. It will rejoice our readers to know that there is a strong prospect of the early wiping out of this traffic. The English government has determined to end it, and a vigorous cruising of the South Pacific by English men-of-war is now going on with good results. The latest English mails bring us news of the capture of one of the kidnapping vessels, and it is not unlikely that others will be seized before the trade is broken up. We trust a short shrift will be given to the crew and captain, and an example made sufficiently severe to a sudden and permanent close.

MEETING OF CHAIRMAKERS AND CARVERS.

On Monday night a crowded meeting of chairmakers and carvers in the east of London, was held at the Columbia Temperance hall, Hackney-road, for the purpose of taking steps to obtain an advance in their rate of wages. Mr. Hay, a carver, having been voted to the chair, stated that they had not instituted the movement out of any hostility to the masters, whom they wished to treat with every respect and fairness. They repudiated strikes, and looked upon them as great evils, but they considered that, seeing the high prices which prevailed, they were perfectly justified in endeavouring to get an increase of wages, so as to enable them to meet and cope with the exigencies and circumstances of the times. He believed many of the masters—in fact, all the higher class ones—would at once acknowledge the justice of their demands, although no doubt the smaller masters, by underselling them in the market, were a great drawback in the way. By, however, adopting a calm and considerate and reasonable course, and showing that they wished to accommodate their employers as much as possible, he felt certain they would in the end succeed in their object. Mr. Bustall then moved a resolution to the effect that the meeting was of opinion, looking at the exorbitant price of every description of provisions and the great rise which has taken place in house rent, that they were entitled to an increase in their wages to the extent of at least 10 per cent. He stated that the firm for which he worked, Messrs. Piccard, had shown every disposition to meet their men in a fair and honorable manner, and no doubt others would do the same.—Mr. Wilshire seconded the resolution, which was adopted unanimously. It was then resolved to appoint delegates from each shop to ascertain the views of the masters and take steps to carry out the resolution just adopted.

CRUELTY TOWARDS EMIGRANTS.

A most scandalous case of cruelty to emigrant passengers has come before the Commissioners of Emigration at New York, the futility of the complaints of the passengers on arrival at port, shows a strangely unsatisfactory state of the law in the premises. Amongst the many hundred passengers by the Charles H. Marshall on her last voyage were about eighty Jews, mostly from Russian Poland. After the vessel had been out a fortnight the captain died, and the crew lost all discipline. They attempted, unsuccessfully, however, to mutiny, and being defeated in this, solaced themselves in abusing the Hebrew passengers; cuffing and beating them, and

in other ways maltreating them, apparently to vent their own vexation and find themselves cruel sport. One of these cases has been brought before a commissioner, and the reply has been that the offence was not covered by the United States statutes, as the case was not an assault with intent to commit a felony. The *New York Times* thus comments on this view of the question:—

"The jovial mariner bent on pleasure may knock down and kick or beat a luckless passenger half to death, without the shadow of any felonious intent, and merely for the sake of recreation. Just for fun, he may reduce his hapless victim to the verge of starvation, or, only for a joke, he may, as did the merry wags of Marshall, suspend him by the heels over the side of the vessel. The object of such attentions generally draws no fine distinctions as to the intent with which they are proffered, and suffers as much from a jocular kick or cuff as he would from a felonious one. As the matter now stands, the passenger is practically at the mercy of the ship's people, without the hope of protection, or even redress from the laws of the land, to whose safeguard he has so confidently intrusted himself."

TERRIBLE FIGHT.

NARROW ESCAPE FROM DEATH BY A VICIOUS SOW.

A few days ago Thomas J. Craycroft, of Taylor township, Harrison county, Md., went into the forest near his residence to feed a large sow, whose pigs were not yet old enough to leave the bed. His wife and little prattling girl, wishing to see the pigs, accompanied him. The father threw the sow some corn, and, after eating a few mouthfuls, she started towards the child, with her huge jaws widely extending making the most frightful demonstrations. Mr. Craycroft, seeing the peril of his child, sprang between it and the ferocious brute, at the same time calling to his wife to take the child away. Then commenced a struggle for life between Mr. Craycroft and the maddened brute. Being a large and powerful animal, she stood on her hind feet and thrust her fore feet against the breast of her victim with such tremendous force as came near knocking him down several times, meantime making repeated efforts to bite or cut him about the face and throat with her powerful tusks. Mr. Craycroft's only weapons of defence were his feet and hands; and in attempting to push the infuriated beast from his face he got his right hand several times in her mouth, by which it was frightfully mangled. The mother, after running a few yards, looked back, and seeing her husband's life in peril, set her child down, and, armed with a club, started to his rescue; but before she got in reach the husband had disengaged himself enough to get hold of a club, with which he dealt his fiendish antagonist several heavy blows before she would desist; and even then she made one effort to renew the conflict. The spectacle presented by the victor as he walked panting from the field, was truly frightful. His clothing was cut into shreds, and he was bespattered from head to foot with blood mingled with foam and froth from the mouth of the enraged monster. Besides the mangle of the right hand, he received severe cuts about the left hand and arm, and a frightful gash above his left knee.

CURE FOR DISEASED POTATOES.

The potatoe disease, so bad in Ireland this year, has appeared in several places in Canada, though in a mitigated form. A gentleman, expressing himself as quite certain as to the efficacy of his recipe for treating diseased potatoes—a subject which is just now engaging much attention in the English press—sends us the following:—

"Take the potatoes up as quickly as possible, expose them to the sun for twelve days, or thereabouts, and the disease is completely stopped. They can then be kept for a length of time (say six months) when they can be converted into starch, for food or for use in the laundry."

The recipe is worthy the attention of agriculturists.

Some one speaking of the red nose of an intemperate man, said "it was a very expensive painting."

THE WHITE HART, corner of Yonge and Elm Street, is conducted by Bell Belmont, on the good old English principle, which gives the greatest satisfaction to its numerous patrons. The bar is most tastefully decorated, and pronounced by the press to be the Prince of Bars. Under the entire management of Mrs. E. Belmont, who is always proud to attend to the customer's wants. A spacious billiard room, and attentive waiters, render the WHITE HART a popular place of resort. Adv.