

NOTICE.

We shall be pleased to receive items of interest pertaining to Trade Societies from all parts of the Dominion or publication. Officers of Trades 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.

(INVARIABLY IN ADVANCE.)

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ADVERTISEMENTS.

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Contract Advertisements at the following rates:—

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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.
- Tinsmiths, 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.

- Victoria Wood Yard.
- Boots and Shoes—J. M. Lynn.
- Boots and Shoes—P. McGlance.
- Election Notice—John Canavan.
- Election Notice—Thomas Davies.
- Election Notice—Frank Riddell.
- Election Notice—John Ball.
- Election Notice—John Kerr.
- Bankrupt Stock of Dry Goods—T. Brownlow.
- Attorney-at-Law, &c.—Harry E. Easton.
- Dentist—G. W. Hale.
- West End Hardware Establishment—D. Hewitt.
- Christmas and New Year's Presents at the Bazaar, Yonge Street.

The Ontario Workman.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, DEC. 5 1872.

THE CREDIT VALLEY RAILWAY.

On the thirteenth of this month the property holders of this city will be called upon to record their votes in relation to the grant of one hundred thousand dollars, which it is proposed to give to the Credit Valley Railway Company as a bonus. It will be well to look at the objects of the proposed Railway, that an intelligent vote may be given. The completion of this enterprise will secure railway communication from Toronto to Streetsville, and from the latter place, along the Credit River by way of Brampton, Cheltenham and Church's Falls to Alton, with a branch from this line through Erin to Fergus, Elora and Salem, thus making subsidiary to the commercial interests of Toronto, almost the whole manufacturing power of the Credit, which is undoubtedly one of the best and steadiest manufacturing streams in Western Canada. Indirectly, also, by a line connecting with the Wellington, Grey and Bruce Railway at Fergus, Toronto would receive a large proportion of the benefit of the trade of the County of Bruce. There are also, along valley of the Credit, some of the finest quarries of limestone and freestone in the Dominion, and beds of water lime, and the development of these resources will keep in this country a great deal of money that now finds its way to the States for those articles; and, of course, the establishment of numerous centres of industry and population in connection with the water power and quarries of the Credit would naturally largely in-

crease the demand for the agricultural products of the farmers, and tend to swell the volume of trade of this city.

These, among others, are some of the objects which the promoters of the Credit Valley Railway have in view in its construction. With reference to the city bonus and the question of taxation, the records of the past tend to show that the new property created hitherto in this city by railway enterprises has paid sufficient taxes required for the bonuses already granted, and consequently the old property of the city, existing before the passage of the bonuses, has not been called upon to pay anything towards the interest or sinking fund of those bonuses; and the inference is that if new buildings are erected next year in a like ratio as they were last year, the amount of taxes derived from them would fully pay the Credit Valley bonus without adding a fraction to the present taxes. We know there are many mechanics in this city who are happily in possession of freeholds, and who will have decided objections to having the present taxes enlarged; but even supposing there was no new property created, what, then, would be the increased assessment they would have to pay for the Credit Railway tax? It has been stated that on an assessment of \$500, the interest of the bonus would be about six or eight cents per annum—and certainly this is nothing very formidable to stand in the way of the bonus being granted.

Objection has been taken against the bonus on the ground that the money would be voted to railway speculators, but we think those objections have not much force. The question to be considered is, will the benefits to be derived from the construction of the proposed railway be sufficient to warrant the granting of the bonus; and we have no doubt the intelligent vote on the thirteenth will decide that they will.

APPRENTICE LAWS.

In a recent number of the Iron Moulder's Journal, the question of Apprentice Laws was discussed, the discussion being based upon a resolution passed at the recent convention held in Troy, to the following effect:—

"Resolved, That every consideration of right and justice demands the passage by each State legislature of equitable apprentice laws."

Similar resolutions have been adopted by nearly every local, State, national and international trade organization, and yet we are apparently as far from a realization of our desires on that subject as we were ten years ago.

Legislatures are not prone to listen to the claims of workmen, more especially when the claim on their behalf is made by a few individuals laboring alone for the good of their fellow-men, and not backed by the local trade or labor organizations of a State. There is not a mechanic in the country who works for wages but recognizes the necessity of an equitable apprentice law; there is not a trade Union in the country that does not teach the necessity of some such law; and while we all recognize the necessity, yet there is not to-day, in existence, an apprentice law that can be enforced. Trade Unions are denounced the country over for proscribing boys, preventing them from learning the trade of their choice, because, forsooth, the ratio allowed by the Union is learning (?) the trade. Misrepresentations as to the causes for this proscription are daily made, both by the press and by individuals, and Trade Unions quietly submit, satisfied to pay no attention to the matter so long as they may be able to enforce their laws upon the subject. But the time is coming when Trade Unions will not be able to enforce apprentice laws made by themselves. Every day this fact becomes more apparent, and it becomes every mechanic and every Trade Union, local and international, to at once go to work systematically, and with fixed and settled purpose to secure the passage of just and equitable apprentice laws.

Why are employers so anxious to fill up their establishments with boys or apprentices? Is it philanthropy, a desire to better their kind, to make first

class mechanics for the future, or is it to secure their cheap labor? We fully recognize the fact that apprentices are a necessity; we further recognize the fact that the number must increase every year, to meet the increased demand for mechanics; but we do emphatically deny that two boys or more should be employed and called apprentices for every one that will be turned out a mechanic. We want to see every apprentice who devotes four or more years to the acquisition of a trade able, at least, to live by that trade, and not as one-half of the so-called journeymen of to-day are compelled to do, six months at laboring work, and during a rush of work find employment at the trade they were supposed to have mastered. There is nothing strange in the desire of the employers to continue this system, for, in the first place, an apprentice from the day he enters the shop, is compelled to do the work of a man, and under the plea of learning him a trade, he is paid one-sixth of a man's wages, and in the second place, these botch mechanics, when not employed, are held as a rod over the shoulders of the mechanic who has mastered his trade. Is it any wonder, then, that employers fight the passage of laws that will compel them, under penalty, to learn or caused to be learned every apprentice they take the art and mystery of the trade, and also to look after his temporal wants during said apprenticeship? Such a law would forever settle the question of apprentices, for no employer would take more boys than he could learn, and ninety-five out of every hundred apprentices would become competent journeymen. Then what is the duty of Trade Unions in the premises? Is it to continue as in the past—wasting time and money in vain efforts to control the question by the power of the Union or by strikes? Certainly not. The time and money wasted in these efforts, if properly directed, would secure such apprentice laws as would take from Trade Unions all the burden and anxiety engendered by this vexed question. This is a subject in which no one trade is particularly interested; every trade and every Union is alike interested, and all should work as a unit for the securing of this right.

The resolution, adopted at Troy, covers the ground, and we hope to see active measures taken in every locality where two or more Trade Unions exist, to secure that unity of all labor necessary to the carrying out of the object in view. The resolution referred to reads as follows:

"Resolved, That the Iron Molders' International Union recommend to the several local Unions the propriety of joining with the Unions of other trades in the formation of Trade Assemblies, having for their object the securing, by agitation, of such laws and privileges as cannot be secured by each trade separately."

The ideas contained therein are not new. Trades Assemblies once flourished in nearly every city, in the country where Trade Unions existed, and nothing but the endeavor on the part of tricksters to bring themselves into political prominence through these Assemblies prevented them from accomplishing the ends for which they organized. The experience of the past will prevent, a recurrence of such scenes in the future Assemblies, and if they are organized, and none but bona-fide representatives of bona-fide Trade Unions are admitted to membership, their power through state or international organization, will be such as to compel their wishes to be respected, and we may then hope for just and equitable apprentice laws.

COACH MAKERS' UNION,

The members of the above Union, with their friends, met last Monday evening at the Walker House, for the purpose of celebrating their first anniversary by an oyster supper. After doing full justice to the good things provided by mine Host, the usual loyal and patriotic toasts were drunk, followed by some capital singing. After spending a very pleasant evening, the party broke up at an early hour.

CAPITAL AND LABOR.

Next to the general problem of civil government, and first under it is the question of capital and labor. Some form of government is demanded in the common interest of all tribes, communities and nations of people. What shall be the form? Who shall wield the power? What shall it cost? are the items in order. That is the best government which governs and costs least.

The community is in the best condition for all the purposes of life which has the most equitable distribution of the surplus, unperishable products of labor.

That community is in the worst condition where there is the greatest inequality or extremes of wealth and poverty. Baxter street is the product, counterpart, equivalent of Fifth Avenue.

That government best subserves its purposes which by the direct and indirect efforts and effects, tends to produce the most equitable distribution of a sufficiency of all the incidental and regular supplies necessary to human support and comfort.

The tendency in our country to extremes in wealth and poverty differs but little from that in the older countries. Society is divided into two classes—producers and accumulators—who are usually non-producers. These latter devote themselves assiduously to the study of the questions of supply and demand, and by their cleverness soon acquire a control of a greater amount of wealth than they could by any means produce, while the real producers are reduced to the minimum of subsistence, and are kept in abject poverty.

It is plainly the duty of the government to check the abuse of this faculty of acquisitiveness whenever it is manifested against the common weal.

There are but two elementary principles entering into the functions of civil government that bear directly on the case—limitation and prohibition: the first is applicable to things useful, and the second to things inherently hurtful.

Of all the problems of civil society this has been and continues the greatest. Under it is the stability of government, and the happiness of the people. The necessity is not questioned. The method is the trouble. By some means, Fifth avenue and Baxter street must be made impassable. Vanderbilt, Stewart, Cameron, Scott, and all that class, including immense monopolies, instead of blessings, are the curses of society. Their immense wealth must make poverty somewhere. This being the fact, and the result being injury and instability, it is plainly the duty of government to lay a strong hand on the commercial customs and laws which are devouring the poor in their poverty. Until this is done there will be no real peace, and no safety. Society and civil government have failed of their legitimate use.—*Keyser's Monthly*.

IMPORTANT DECLARATION BY THE ENGLISH ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

The agitation among the agricultural laborers in Warwickshire and in other English counties promises to bear fruit of a kind quite different from the one originally aimed at by the leaders of the movement. Besides securing for the workmen a more equal share in the profits of the land than they have hitherto possessed, the agitation is gradually but surely leavening the public mind with the idea that, sooner or later, the county and burgh franchise must be equalised. There never has existed any valid reason for making a distinction between the two qualifications. The worker on the land is on an average as intelligent a being as the worker in the mill or in the workshop, and therefore quite as capable of giving an intelligent vote for a member of the Legislature. And in the course of a few years there will be still less reason for maintaining the invidious distinction between the urban and rural populations than there is now, for under the benign influences of the Education Acts, Scotch and English, the cultivators of the soil will by and by become as highly educated as their brethren who live in towns. The move-

ment initiated by Joseph Arch in South Warwickshire has compelled attention to the position of the tillers of the soil. That movement has been hailed by some as an omen for good, by others it has been denounced and calumniated as a device of Satan for the ruin of society. Amongst its most violent opponents in the upper ranks of life have been the Duke of Marlborough and Bishop Eliott of Gloucester. The latter apostolical personage went so far on one occasion as to suggest that the leaders of the movement—Arch and others—should be ducked in a horse-pond, while the Duke has given it as his opinion that there will be no living with the laborers unless they are reduced to a condition of semi-slavery by being placed under the iron heel of the landlords and farmers. These benevolent suggestions have naturally excited some attention from people who take an interest in public questions. They have not escaped the notice of the Government. Speaking at Exeter the other day, the Attorney-General, Sir John Coleridge, declared that a Tory Duke and a Tory Bishop (alluding of course, to his Grace of Marlborough and Dr Eliott) had made the extension of the county franchise one of the "pressing" questions of the day. This declaration, we believe, was made not only with the knowledge of Mr Gladstone, but with his full concurrence. It is not meant that immediate steps shall be taken to repair the defects of the last Reform Act, but it is meant that the equalisation of the county and burgh franchises should be kept in view as something needful to be done, and that must be done before long.

MAYORALTY ELECTIONS.

A petition is being circulated in Ottawa, praying a return to the old system of electing the Mayors of cities by popular vote. This privilege is enjoyed by towns, and we do not know of any good reason for making an exception in the case of cities. The Mayor of a city is more than a mere chairman of the Board of Aldermen. He is our chief representative as well as our chief magistrate, and as such should be the free choice of the majority of citizens.

N. C. O. OF Q. O. R.

The above hieroglyphics stand for Non-Commissioned Officers of the Queen's Own Rifles, who intend to hold their first annual ball, under the patronage of Col. Gillmor and the Officers of the Regiment, in the Music Hall, on Wednesday evening next, 11th inst. Every effort is being made by a most efficient committee to render this the most successful gathering of the season. Supper is to be provided by Mess Sergeant Shannessy of the Royal, and his well-known reputation as a caterer is sufficient to ensure success in his department.

THE MOULDER'S BALL.

The arrangements for the Moulder's ball in the Mansion House, to-morrow night, are being carried on vigorously, and everything promises to be A 1.

THE BOOKBINDERS' SOCIAL.

The Bookbinders' Trade Union of this city intend holding their first annual Social in the St. Lawrence Hall, this (Thursday) evening. A very pleasant time is anticipated.

Go to Eaton's for wineys, where they can be bought for less than elsewhere.

Our Oshawa correspondent—"Heather Jock's" interesting correspondence, we regret to say, came to hand too late for insertion in this issue. It will appear in our next.

Mr. John Carr has been returned by acclamation as Alderman for St. Andrew's Ward, for the balance of the civic year.

Mr. JOHN BALL.—We refer with pleasure to the notice in our advertising columns of Mr. Ball being in the field as a candidate for Alderman for the Ward of St. Patrick. He is very popular, and from what we have learned, his election is certain.

MR. WM. THOMAS.—This gentleman, as our readers are already aware, is a candidate for the office of Alderman for St. Andrew's Ward. He is meeting with very flattering success in his canvass, and many of our friends of the Ward are lending him valuable assistance, as he is the right man for the position he aspires to.