

that with the experience they had acquired in connection with their business, the details of manufacturing, the relations of capital and labor, etc., they would have availed themselves of the public press to discuss the subject, and state the reason why they could not concede the principle contended for. But no; they must meet in secret session, and devise some plan to effectually resist the demands of their employees. They dare not come out before the public, seeing their cause is a questionable one, and will not bear the light of day; their arguments would have no weight with an intelligent and discriminating public.

I am pleased to learn that some of the employers have withdrawn their names from the "manifesto"; while some others allow their names to remain "for sake of effect." It is to be hoped that the latter, if they have any regard for their reputations, will soon follow suit. There may be one exception, viz: the representative, not of Truth, Justice, and Equal Rights, but of Selfishness, Hypocrisy, and Tyranny. Leave him alone in his glory.

I remain yours truly,

A REFORMER.

Toronto, April 29.

SUMMARY.

The journeymen brassfounders of Paisley have agreed to accept the masters' offer of fifty-four hours as the week's work.

The conchmakers' strike at Cork has terminated, the masters allowing a reduction of three hours now and three next July, thus bringing about the nine hours' system.

A number of the St. Andrews joiners struck work on Monday; but all turned in again on Tuesday morning, their masters having agreed to grant them a reduction of hours to fifty-one per week, the wages to be continued at the old rate.

Mr. Gladstone, in reply to a question by Mr. Jenkinson, said the Imperial Government had agreed to guarantee a Canadian Loan of 2,500,000 pounds sterling for the construction of the railway to the Pacific, providing Canada should accept the Washington Treaty.

A London jeweller has just completed the manufacture of a "gigantic" gold watch for Captain M. V. Bates, the "Kentucky Giant." Such an immense watch requires of a necessity a "guard" chain of proportionate dimensions to "fix" it. This weighs upwards of 12 ounces, and measures six feet in length.

It is probable that Lord John Russell's address, calling upon Her Majesty's Government to instruct the British arbitrator at Geneva to withdraw from the Board of Arbitration until the claims for consequential damages are abandoned by the American Government, will not be presented in the House of Lords, as an answer to Earl Granville's second note has just been received.

O'Connor, who assaulted the Queen, has been sentenced to 12 months imprisonment and 20 lashes. The Jury was satisfied that he was sane, though his father testified that he was not. He is a grand nephew of Fergus O'Connor, one of the Irish agitators of the past generation.

After being for little more than two days on strike, the joiners in Aylth and district have returned to work, the employers having conceded their demands for the nine hours limit, with no abatement in pay, overtime to be paid at the rate of time and half. The change, however, will not take effect till 1st May. The masters have also promised, without solicitation, to increase the men's wages at the same time.

The Home Secretary has intimated to the Mayor of Bolton, that an inquiry is to be made into the circumstances attending the riot which occurred at a meeting held there to hear an address from Sir Charles Dilke. Several persons accused of rioting on the above occasion were, it will be remembered, criminally prosecuted recently, but were dismissed as the jury could not agree as to their verdict.

THE DEBT OF PARIS.—The deputation appointed by the city of Paris to obtain the restitution by the Government of the contribution of 200 millions levied by the Prussians, have had an interview with the President of the Republic, who proposed that the debt should be borne half by the State and half by the city. The delegates had no powers to accept that compromise, but undertook to submit it to the entire body of the Deputies for Paris.

The "Tichborne Defence Fund" now being raised in England by those who think the claimant has been ill-used by the premature closing of the celebrated trial, is now assuming respectable proportions, and the third list of subscriptions just published in the London papers fills a column and a half, the amounts ranging from twenty pounds to one shilling.

NEW TICKET.—A great boon has just been granted by the G. W. R. It is in the shape of a ticket which enables the purchaser to travel for 1,000 miles at a less rate than the usual tariff. The passenger is allowed one day in which to complete his pilgrimage, but he is assured that millions of our travelling citizens will get through more than one of the

"Thousand Mile Tickets" per annum. These tickets can be obtained by letter to W. K. Muir, G. W. R., Hamilton.

PRISON LABOR.—A curious question has been raised in the Imperial Parliament with regard to the utilization of prison labor, which has been tried in England on an extensive scale, and with the most marked success. It seems that at the Wakefield prison, the mat-making business has been carried on with so much spirit and enterprise that the firms in that way of business in neighboring towns consider their trade unduly interfered with. Accordingly the Government was expostulated with by a representative of the aggrieved ones, but Mr. Gladstone did not seem to see it. So speaks an English exchange. Perhaps if Mr. Gladstone looked at the matter a little more closely, he might "see" it in the same light as does the business men who are affected by "prison labour."

A SPITTING ADVOCATE OF FREE-LOVE.—Victoria C. Woodhull, the free-love champion, delivered a woman suffrage harangue at Washington a short time since. She declared that she would "spit upon the Constitution," and that she would "spit upon Congress"—that she would "raise a revolution," and that she would "stump every State from Maine to California to accomplish it." Just imagine the terrible female Woodhull marching through the country, "spitting" spitefully and "stumping" stupendously! Let all cleanly and self-respecting folks get out from under.—Columbia Current.

SCOTCHMEN AND PUBLIC WORKS IN JAPAN.—Among the presentations made to the Mikado during his recent progress of inspection through Japan, two Scotchmen received special notice and flattering commendation—viz., Mr. R. H. Brunton, who was complimented on the successful construction of the lighthouses already completed, and the diligence with which he had carried out the work entrusted to him; and Mr. Cargill, who received thanks for the assistance he had given in the various transactions connected with the railway works, and the establishment of a mint.

The Emperor of China is soon to be married, and has imported a pair of elephants to assist at the ceremony. His future consort is undergoing a careful training in the etiquette of Court life. For three years the looms of Nankin, Hongshan, and Canton have been engaged on the silks and satins for her bridal *trousseau*, and just now they are announced as completed, at a cost of nearly half a million in our money. While the bridegroom, who has the sun for his emblem, goes forth in a car drawn by elephants, his bride, who represents the moon, is to be borne in a palanquin composed entirely of strings of pearls.

FATAL ACCIDENT IN A FOUNDRY.—A few days ago a melancholy accident occurred in Messrs. Caird & Co's foundry, in Arthur Street, Greenock. The workmen were engaged elevating a large casting weighing nearly 3 tons, and having a hole in the centre, and after they had got it up a certain distance, the foreman moulder, John Turner, and a lad named John Macmillan, incautiously went underneath it. The chain suddenly snapped and the ponderous casting fell on Turner, crushing him to death. The boy had a most marvellous escape. He happened to be standing underneath the opening in the casting, and when it fell he escaped unhurt. The deceased was thirty-two years of age, and leaves a wife and family.

THE GREAT SEA SERPENT CAUGHT AT LAST.—Many persons are yet sceptical as to the existence of a real sea serpent, and have considered the tales they have heard concerning it either fabulous or the effects of a disordered vision. But as the present sea serpent got land-trapped, it was bound to be caught, and, after examination, if it has not turned up to be the veritable one, it is most certainly a *fac simile*, in the shape of a log of wood 18 feet long and about 12 inches in diameter, literally covered with barnacles, each from 10 to 18 inches in length. The mass, when floating between wind and water, pitching up and down, would undoubtedly appear a formidable sea monster, as the barnacles looked like scales. This marine curiosity was picked up by John Kermod and his crew, and has been exhibited by them in a shed on the East Quay, Ramsey.—*Monk's Herald*.

DRUNKENNESS IN ENGLAND.—The Saturday *Review*, of England, referring to the enormous increase of drunkenness in that country, says: "It is impossible to shut our eyes at the signs of the times. On every side we see proofs of increasing habits of drinking at all hours of the day. The railway stations are becoming vast drinking saloons. There are few bakers or confectioners who do not exhibit a decanter and glasses on their counter. The theatres present the appearance of a succession of bars. One of the newest of them opens into a tavern, which shares the same roof, another has bar-matins established in bowers of bottles at every turn of the central staircase, and in every spare nook and corner of the auditorium."

TRADES' ASSEMBLY.

The regular monthly meeting of the Trades' Assembly will be held on Friday evening, in the Assembly Hall. All delegates are requested to be punctual in attendance.

We have received our Hamilton correspondence, but are compelled to lay it over till next issue.

A STRIKE IN THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

We hear there has been lately a strike among the Doctors on the vaccination staff. Their income was fifty dollars per month, with twenty-five cents additional for each arm. They were not satisfied, but required the salary doubled, so as to have a hundred dollars per month with makin's. They have lost the strike, as there were others prepared to step in their shoes when they had shuffled them off. We hear it is their intention to sue their late employers for the value of the surplus matter that they had procured for the arms of Her Majesty's lieges, which has been left on their hands. We have no wish to see such an exemplary set of men made an example of, but if they sue for lost matter, we hope the Corporation will see in that matter for prosecuting them, after the Toronto persecutors style led on by Brown of the *Globe*. If the law of Canada is not a delusion, a mockery and a snare, they certainly deserve punishment more than the men who desire to reduce the time set apart for labor one hour per day.

We have been informed that it is the intention of the defeated Faculty to send their surplus matter to the States, but we fear our American cousins will object to the importation of virus from Canada at the present juncture, for fear of it making bad blood, and, with all their desire for union, they have no wish to be annexed in that way.—*Montreal paper*.

ERUPTION OF VESUVIUS.

LONDON, April 27.—The Naples correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* says he has visited all the hotels in that city to ascertain if any of the guests were among the persons injured by lava flowing from Mount Vesuvius, he learned none of them were missing, and that fatalities were confined exclusively to residents of the villages on the side and at the base of the volcano.

NAPLES, April 27.—There is no abatement of the force of the eruption of Mount Vesuvius; the lava continues to flow down the sides of the volcano, destroying everything in its path. The explosions, as the flame and lava shoot from the crater, are distinctly heard in this city. A great panic prevails among the inhabitants of the country around the mountain.

NAPLES, April 27, (evening).—The eruption of Mount Vesuvius continues with dreadful violence. The flowing lava has already reached Sabastiano and threatens other towns. Explosions in the volcano are constantly heard in this city. The consternation among the inhabitants of the villages and towns which are threatened with danger increases. It is re-asserted that many tourists were surrounded by the lava and perished. King Victor Emmanuel has sent aid to persons who have been compelled to flee from their homes and encamp in the fields.

ROME, April 27.—At the session of the Chamber of Deputies to-day, Signor Sella the Minister of France, read a despatch from the Prime Minister Lanza, who proceeded to Naples last night rectifying the estimates of the killed given in a despatch read yesterday. The telegram from Minister Lanza stated that only 12 persons had been killed and 12 injured by the running lava. The villages of San Sebastiano and Mazzadissomma have been almost entirely destroyed, but all their inhabitants succeeded in getting away safely. Lava is now advancing towards the villages of Ponticelli, Cercola, Saint George and Portici, which have been abandoned by their inhabitants. The people living in the towns of Torre del Greco, Resina and Boscoreale have also fled from their homes, as those places are threatened with destruction. These homeless persons have been provided with temporary shelter.

Yesterday the lava advanced at the rate of one kilometer an hour, but to-day its pace has been slackened. While there have been numbers of heavy explosions in the interior of the volcano to-day there has been no trembling of the earth.

The Chamber of Deputies have authorized the Government to take necessary measures to provide for the comfort of the people who have been so suddenly deprived of their homes.

NAPLES, April 28th.—The streams of lava which threatened the villages of Resina and Persina have ceased, and the molten mass is now cooling. The eruption is decreasing, but villagers do not dare to return to their homes.

NAPLES, 2 p.m., April 28.—The fires of Vesuvius are slackening. A new crater opened near Fersigua to-day, but with every fresh opening new violence of eruption seems to abate. Yesterday the entire mountain was concealed from sight by the smoke which settled around it. This morning the heavens were darkened by the dense clouds of smoke and ashes. A strong wind carried showers of burning cinders and old scoria as far as Schafate and Palermo.

Precaution was taken to flood the Government magazine at Schafate. The volume of the stream of lava near San Sebastiano is 16 feet deep and the village is still in danger.

The King, who arrived in Naples yesterday, has gone to San Sebastiano to direct measures for the relief of the inhabitants.

The devastation has been terrible. Thousands of acres of land have been overwhelmed by ashes and lava, and vineyards are burned out of sight. Loss of life, it is said, must have been heavy, but it is impossible to ascertain the number of victims.

NAPLES, April 29.—The view of Mount Vesuvius from this city is now the grandest that has been witnessed since the year 1631.

Many persons have taken advantage of the panic among the people of towns which were threatened with destruction to take whatever goods they could find, and the Government have been compelled to order troops to those places to prevent the stealing of the abandoned property.

NAPLES, April 29, morning.—A sound as of thunder accompanies the discharges from Mount Vesuvius. The wind is blowing in this direction to-day, carrying dense clouds of smoke and ashes over the city. Ashes are falling on the streets like snow, and already they have reached the depth of two or three inches. The rumbling inside the volcano continues, but no fresh craters have opened, and lava has ceased to flow. Showers of sand have succeeded the rain of ashes which was falling this morning. The eruption is now accompanied by fearful electric phenomena. Lightning darts incessantly from the summit of the volcano, and thunder is continuous. Burning cinders, stones and scoriae are falling fast and thick in the town of Massi di Somma, which is entirely destroyed.

TRADE UNIONS.

From the *Montreal Daily News*.

The course pursued by the Toronto publishers forced Sir John A. Macdonald to turn his attention to the law respecting Trades' Unions, in order to assimilate our legislation to that in force in England. It is the duty of a statesman to study every social movement, and endeavor to harmonize conflicting interests. Sir J. A. Macdonald's bill to assimilate the law of Canada relating to Trades' Unions and trade combinations to that of England, is a proof of his administrative capacity, and shows his ability to anticipate and provide for the growing wants of our advancing civilization. The schoolmaster has been abroad for the last thirty years, and we see the results in the animated and intelligent discussions in which the working classes engage. In every quarter of the world where the English speaking race are found, an eager controversy is heard as to the relative positions of the operative and the employer. Labor and capital have not discovered as yet satisfactory basis of settlement. On the one hand we witness exaggerated demands, on other a resolve to invoke legal penalties; thus an antagonism has grown up which ought never to have been allowed to strike root. The discovery of the steam engine, the creation of steamboats and railways, and the introduction of machinery into every branch of manufacturing and agricultural industry called into existence masses of highly skilled mechanics, and necessitated a higher degree of intelligence on the part of operatives. If we compare the latest novelty in the shape of a steam driven revolving press, casting off thousands of impressions every hour, with the clumsy hand-worked lever of thirty years since, we can measure the revolution that has occurred; and it is easy to comprehend that a much higher order of skill and aptitude must be forthcoming on the part of the mechanic than was needed formerly. We refer to the improvements in the art of printing, not that they are exceptional, because every branch of manufacturing industry can point to equal or greater progress, but to show that machines of the present day are called on to perform services that make heavier demands on head and hands, and that mind and muscle are incessantly on the stretch to keep pace with the unflagging engine. "Educate the working classes" has been the demand of the age; and now that they are educated to a higher standard they very naturally use their newly-acquired powers. They have tasted the pleasures of literature, and they seek longer leisure to indulge in new-found sources of enjoyment. All work and no play dulls the faculties; therefore they insist on shortening the hours of toil; and, as their readiest mode of achieving their object, they combine. Organizing and associating together they beget a power capable of treating on an equality with capital. The law, conceived with reference to a different state of society, treats acts which in England are harmless, as criminal in Canada. To rectify this anomaly, Sir J. A. Macdonald brings in his bill relating to Trades' Unions and trade combinations. The consumers are almost the only parties actually concerned in the controversies between labor and capital, because whether eight or ten hours' labor become the rule the price of the manufactured article must be regulated by the cost of production. High wages involve high prices, and as the latter cannot be maintained in the face of continental competition in England, the inevitable result must follow that the working classes must become protectionists. We see no escape from this contingency. In England there has been a steady rise in the scale of wages; even in Warwickshire, now the scene of a strike, the farm hand receives in money or kind

19s per week, taking into account his cottage and garden, with the family earnings during harvest. The tenant farmers who employ labor say that rents must be reduced or a duty imposed on foreign produce. In this Province farm labor has risen within 20 years one hundred per cent. The ordinary price in 1852 was half a dollar per day; now it is difficult to procure good workmen in the country under a dollar a day. Of course, agriculture must suffer until machinery be more extensively introduced; nevertheless the masses are better fed and clothed. We cannot revert to sumptuary laws or arbitrarily decide the price of labor. The legislator cannot interfere between operatives and capitalists. All that he can do is to sanction organizations, define their rights, duties, and powers, restrain them within salutary limits, and leave them to make their own bargain.

THE FRENCH ARMY LIST.

STARTLING FACTS.

It has been stated recently that fears were entertained of serious complications between France and Germany. This may have been thought impossible in connection with the thorough defeat the French have recently sustained; but the following facts will show that another war is not only possible, but not at all unlikely. In the first place, France now has at her disposal 874,000 soldiers, all ready for service. This statement is confirmed very authoritatively. The army which was imprisoned in Germany, numbering about 380,000 men, is on a very good footing. Sobered by its long and shameful captivity, it has prepared itself for vengeance. There are also 68,000 reserve troops of really excellent character, and 423,000 "gardes mobiles," who have seen service, but who cannot exactly claim the distinction of being veterans. The men are not to be dispirited, however. They really exist as an organized force, and as a force willing and anxious to fight. France intends, within the next two years, to bring her regular strength up to half a million of men; and to thus have two armies, one of veterans and regulars, and the other—five hundred thousand in number also—of militia, at her immediate command. Her artillery is still in bad condition, but great efforts are in progress for its renovation and improvement. Germany has found it necessary to very much improve her own artillery, and will no more than equal France in the vigor of her amelioration of that effective arm of the service. France is still determined on a speedy and terrible vengeance upon Germany, and the wise may not be able to restrain the over-inpatient. If trouble begins at all, it will probably occur shortly after the payments are nearly completed, and on some pretext connected with the "occupation." The rumor that the occupying forces will be strengthened is doubtless true, but of itself has no alarming significance. It is a precautionary measure, but it is often taken on the strength of a rumor which proves totally without foundation.

FAILURE OF THE SEAL FISHERIES IN NEWFOUNDLAND.

It is not long since the world was dazzled with the golden prospects of seal fishing, as conducted by steamers. Indeed the seals and the modes of catching them, in the hands of clever and ingenious writers, have for some time furnished a splendid advertisement of that prospective Province of Canada called Newfoundland. Now it seems, by one of those vicissitudes well known to fishermen, the sealers have suffered a reverse. By advices of a later date than our letter of yesterday, we learn that on Sunday, the 6th inst., three steamers and several sailing vessels drifted past the harbour of St. John's, N.F., at some distance, fast locked in ice. They were part of the northern sealing fleet, and had been arrested by the tremendous barriers of ice pressed on the shores by easterly winds, and were then drifted helplessly south, without any seals. The *S.S. Ariel* was reported at Charnel with only 200 seals on board. She had gone to the Gulf fishery. Large numbers of sealing vessels were reported to have been seen late in March fast in the ice, without seals. The immense depth of snow on the ice would render it almost impossible for the sealers to move about over its surface in search of seals, and would make it extremely perilous to pursue their prey, as the ice-crevices would be covered with soft snow.

The best judges in St. John's, declare that, owing to the unprecedented combination of unfavourable circumstances, this will be one of the most disastrous failures in the seal fishery ever known. We publish this news with the greatest regret.—*St. John's Telegraph*.

CARPENTERS' STRIKE.

We understand that a number of carpenters struck work on Wednesday, in accordance with a resolution passed at the recent mass meeting. We have not been able to learn particulars.

A SPECIAL MEETING of the Trades' Assembly has been called for this (Thursday) evening.

BIRTH.

On the 25th inst., at the Workmen's Hat Store, Queen street west, the wife of Max Bourdon of a son.

MARRIED.

In Elora, on the 16th ult., by the Rev. Father Willett, Mr. James McNary, foreman in Wilson and Lockman's sewing machine factory, of Fergus, to Miss Ellen Fladd, of Salem.