

REPORT OF THE TORONTO WORKINGMEN'S MEETING

(From the DAILY GLOBE of May 31st and June 1st, 1878.)

The magnificent demonstration held on the evening of May 30, in the Adelaide street Skating Rink was a creditable one to those who initiated and organized it, as it was complimentary in the truest and most genuine sense to the Minister in whose honour it took place. The success of the affair was complete, and only rendered all the more striking and unquestionable by the futile, though none the less disgraceful, efforts to interrupt the proceedings by a small but evidently organized band of Tory emissaries. Nearly 9,000 tickets had been distributed up to six o'clock, and soon after that hour the audience began to arrive. The issue of forged tickets of admission had warned the Committee of possible attempts to create disorder, and strong barriers were erected at the entrance of the rink in order to facilitate a scrutiny as the ticket-holders entered. This checked to some extent the rapid filling of the hall, but nevertheless by a quarter past seven there must have been fully 2,000 persons in the building. As eight o'clock drew near the available space rapidly became occupied, and a more respectable and intelligent audience never awaited the arrival of the speaker of the day. The majority were plainly members of the artisan class, but every grade of the citizens was well represented. City merchants, bankers, lawyers, ministers of religion were there in numbers, many well-known faces appearing in the densely packed crowd in front of and around the platform. The meeting of the Press Association had also brought several country journalists to the city, and given them the opportunity of listening to and enjoying the Premier's admirable address. There were three brass bands present, and the music they dispensed helped to enliven the proceedings.

At a few minutes past eight the crowd in front of the building was so dense, and the possibility of admitting the whole of the ticket-holders without delaying the proceedings was so obvious, that the Committee decided to remove the barriers. In a very short time the dense mass had penetrated to the interior of the rink, the vast area, some 240 feet by 80 feet, being filled to suffocation. A tremen-